Hafa Adai!

Sablan: Remittance tax is a discriminatory double tax. PAGE 2
BOG buys Guam-based loan portfolio from ANZ Guam. PAGE 7

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 207

www.saipantribune.com | TUESDAY OCTOBER 18, 2022 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Airline's B757 arriving Wed.

Northern Marianas Airways will be bringing to Saipan tomorrow the proposed aircraft type it wishes to operate in support of its vision to become the CNMI's first international airline.

The aircraft, a Boeing 757-200, will be arriving tomorrow, Wednesday afternoon, around 4pm. It is one of three that the airline is seeking to operate from Saipan if

See B757 on Page 4

WITH A DEC. 31, 2029, DEADLINE TO HIRE CW-1 WORKERS

Bill seeks to establish apprenticeship program

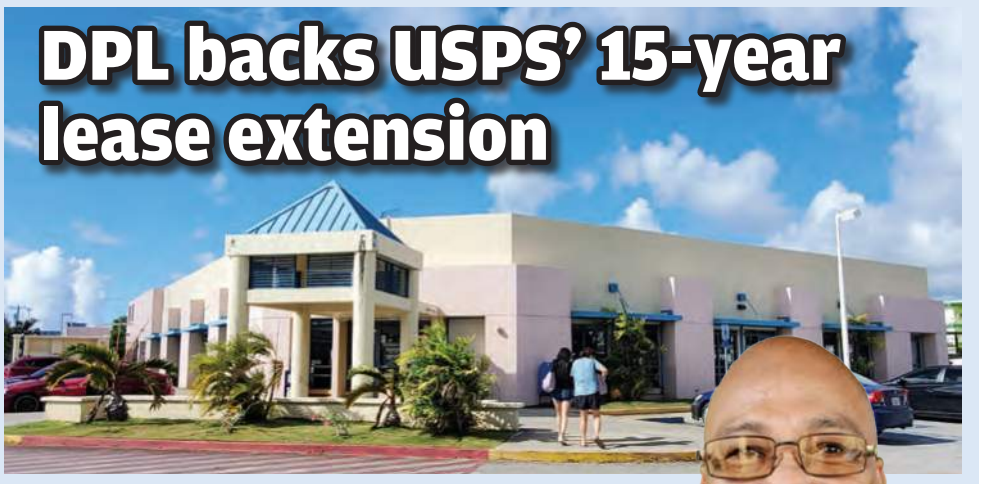
Staffler

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Aware that the CNMI only has until Dec. 31, 2029, to hire foreign workers—more commonly known as Commonwealth Only Transitional Workers or CW-1, Rep. Leila Haveia Fleming Staffler (D-Saipan) has underscored the need to establish and invest in programs that are intended to develop a local workforce skilled in trades.

Staffler is set to introduce at the House of Representatives session today, Tuesday, a bill that seeks to establish an ap-

See BILL on Page 4



DPL backs USPS' 15-year lease extension

File photo shows the U.S. Postal Services' facility in Chalan Kanoa.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands supports the U.S. Postal Services' request to extend by another 15 years its lease of a public land in Chalan Kanoa that is being used as a postal facility.

DPL Secretary Sixto K.

See DPL on Page 4

Igisomar

GUBERNATORIAL FORUM

Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) gestures as she answers one of the questions as Rep. Leila F. Staffler (D-Saipan) listens during the Gubernatorial Town Hall Forum hosted by the Northern Marianas College at the American Memorial Park Theater Monday night. Also in the photo, from left to right, are NMC School of Education associate professor Dr. Beylul Solomon, NMC Language and Humanities assistant professor Adam Walsh, Associated Students of NMC president Anushi Joshi, and ASNMC vice president Jefferson Cunanan. Sablan and Staffler are running for governor and lieutenant governor, respectively, under the Democratic Party, in the Nov. 8 general elections.

FERDIE DELA TORRE

Ex-IPI employee seeks sanctions

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

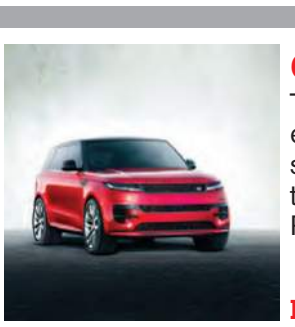
A former Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC employee who is suing the casino investor for wrongful termination and retaliation under the Americans with Disabilities Act is seeking sanctions against IPI for its failure to comply with requests for discovery.

Xiao Rongkun, a construction engineer with a disability who was formerly employed by IPI, has filed a motion requesting the U.S. District Court for

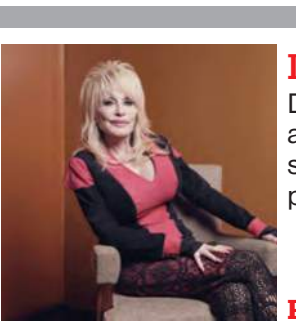
See EX-IPI on Page 4

INSIDE

NATION
This year's midterm elections are playing out as a strange continuation of the last presidential race.
PAGE 12



OVERDRIVE
The 2023 Range Rover Sport is a smaller, sportier rendition of the also-redesigned Range Rover.
PAGE 14



LIFE & STYLE
Dolly Parton laughs at the idea that she is some sort of secret philanthropist.
PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Sablan: Remittance tax is a discriminatory double tax

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) said Monday that a remittance tax is a discriminatory double tax that actually disproportionately impacts poor and working families.

Sablan also stated that what truly disproportionately impacts the poor and working families of the CNMI community are chronic diseases like cancer, diabetes, and heart disease.

The lawmaker talked about a remittance tax and disenfranchising the poor issues in response to *Saipan Tribune*'s request for comments about the statements made by Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig and Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian) pertaining to a bill that proposes to raise tobacco taxes.

Speaking before a public hearing on House Bill 22-54 at the Rota Mayor's Office conference room conducted by the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs last Tuesday, Atalig said he believes it's not the right time for this legislation. Instead, he suggested having some sort of tax on the remittance money leaving the Commonwealth.

Sablan

At the same public hearing, King-Nabors opposed the bill, asserting that it will be disenfranchising poor people in the community.

King-Nabors said at the end of the day, the people that are going to be affected by this legislation are those who don't have the means, because it would raise taxes on tobacco and on sugary drinks.

The senator suggested that a better approach would be incentivizing people to purchase items that are healthier, reducing the costs of living to live a healthier life, as opposed to taxing tobacco and beverage products.

Sablan is the principal author of H.B. 22-54, which the House of Representatives had already passed. The bill is now before the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chaired by Sen. Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota).

The bill seeks to update the definition of tobacco products in the CNMI's excise tax laws; bring tobacco tax rates to the recommended level; set tobacco tax rates to increase with inflation; and invest tobacco tax revenues in health promotion and disease prevention and control programs in the CNMI.

In response to Atalig's call to tax remittances, Sablan said,"If you're siding with tobacco and pushing for remittance taxes, well, you don't really care about the poor."

With respect to King-Nabors' statement about disenfranchising the poor, Sablan said tobacco use is a known risk factor for cancer, diabetes, and heart disease.

"Tobacco addiction, unscrupulous business practices of the tobacco industry, the underfunding of our healthcare system, and lack of access to health services also disproportionately impact poor and working families," she said.

Sablan said effective tobacco taxation is a proven, evidence-based policy tool to reduce tobacco use in communities and support healthcare and public health systems.

She said tobacco is not an essential commodity like food or medicine. Rather, it is a highly addictive, lethal product backed by an extremely profitable and powerful industry, she added.

"We can both raise taxes on tobacco and direct tobacco revenues to healthcare and health promotion. This is not an either/or situation. We can and should do both," Sablan said.

She said the bill does both: it raises tobacco taxes to levels recommended by local health officials in line with Centers for Disease and Prevention, and World Health Organization guidelines to reduce the prevalence of tobacco use, and directs a greater share of tobacco revenues to healthcare and public health services.

Sablan pointed out that 5% of tobacco revenues would also go to tax collection and enforcement.

Senator questions CUC inaction on her requests for documents

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) has questioned the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s inaction on her many requests for information and documents.

DeLeon Guerrero

DeLeon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* that on Aug. 3, 2022, as chair of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee, she asked for information/documents from CUC to include the methodology provided by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission on the Fuel Adjustment Charge rate 4.5%+/-.

"To date since my Aug. 3, 2022 SNILD JGO oversight, no information has been submitted to my office," she said.

As of press time, *Saipan Tribune* was awaiting comments from CUC.

Among the information that DeLeon Guerrero requested is the detailed revenue to include any income derived from such revenue and drawdown expenditure(s) report of the Casino Community Benefit Fund given to CUC for the issuance of utility assistance to electric account customers.

The senator said her CUC oversight and requests for information prompted her to introduce Senate Bill No. 22-81 that would allow the disclosure of records or information to a legislative committee.

DeLeon Guerrero also noted that the monthly ExxonMobil price notification letter sent to CUC that has an effect on the FAC rates is an important communication.

She said ExxonMobil's letter dated Aug. 2, 2022, requested CUC not to share the information because it's sensitive information covered by copyright and intellectual laws.

The senator said CUC's letter to her dated Aug. 17, 2022, also did not produce her requests for documents under CUC-IFB-20-001 contract because it's considered proprietary commercial information.

DeLeon Guerrero stated in her legislation, S.B. 22-81 that legislative standing and oversight committee's duties and responsibilities include conducting investigations regarding public complaints, issues and matters brought to the attention of the committees.

She said such investigations may warrant obtaining privileged or exempt public records and information from governing bodies and public agencies to address and resolve public issues.

Under the bill, any public record or information which may be non-disclosable under the Commonwealth Code that is in the possession of a governing body or public agency shall be disclosable to a legislative standing or oversight committee of the Senate or the House of Representatives.

This is upon the issuance of a subpoena requesting such record or information or subpoena upon the person in custody of the record or information.

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Phone (670) 433-0504 • Fax (670) 433-1819
Email: tinianscholarship@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Thursday, October 20, 2022, at 5:30 p.m., at the Tinian Health Center (Conference Room), San Jose Village, Tinian.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of the Agenda
D. Adoption of Minutes
• September 12, 2022 (Regular Meeting)
• September 30, 2022 (Special Meeting)
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS*
III. OLD BUSINESS
A. Review of Fall 2022 Scholarship Applications with Pending Issues
IV. NEW BUSINESS
A. Review and Discussion of all Communications to the Board or Individual Members
V. MISCELLANEOUS
VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VII. ADJOURNMENT

/S/Rodney S. Cabarles
Chairman

[1]We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments on the day of the meeting.
[2]Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.
[3]Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.

Man sues NMI gov't, DPS officers

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man is suing the CNMI government and two Department of Public Safety officers in Superior Court for allegedly unlawfully arresting him.

Nicholas Yarolfalchuw has filed a lawsuit with the Superior Court, naming the CNMI government, police sergeant John Cabrera, and police officer Daniel Fitial as defendants for allegedly unlawfully arresting him in May 2021.

Yarolfalchuw previously filed the same lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Joseph E. Horey, who represents Yarolfalchuw, argues that the degree of force that Cabrera and Fitial used against his client was "excessive," considering the non-severity of Yarolfalchuw's crime, and the absence of any immediate threat to the safety of themselves or others.

Yarolfalchuw is asking to be awarded unspecified damages and other relief the court deems just and proper.

According to the complaint, on or about May 10, 2021, at 5pm, Yarolfalchuw, a resident of Kagman III, was sitting at a pavilion on the premises of his residence and talking with relatives when Cabrera arrived and entered the premises, parking beside the pavilion.

In a short discussion with Yarolfalchuw, Cabrera questioned Yarolfalchuw about his involvement in an incident of disturbing the peace that had been reported at Tank Beach. Yarolfalchuw informed Cabrera that he was trespassing, and instructed him to depart.

Cabrera instead used his vehicle to block the driveway and entrance to the premises, and called Fitial to assist him in arresting Yarolfalchuw.

Fitial arrived in another vehicle, which he also used to block Yarolfalchuw's driveway.

"Fitial, with the assistance and under the supervision and direction of Cabrera, ordered Yarolfalchuw to place his hands behind his back, and placed him in handcuffs… doing so with such force and violence as to cause sharp pain and suffering to [Yarolfalchuw] in his arms and shoulders," the complaint stated.

Horey further argued that arresting a person at his home, without a warrant, and without both exigent circumstances and reasonable cause to believe that he had committed a felony, is an unreasonable and illegal seizure.

Back in January 2022, Yarolfalchuw sued Fitial and Cabrera in federal court alleging unlawful arrest and the deprivation of his civil rights.

Free workshops on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free workshops on federal contracting this month. Workshops are held every Wednesday from 10am to 11:30am in room 262 of the University of Guam's School of Business and Public Administration (*unless otherwise specified).

■ **Oct. 19, 2022 – How to get 8(a) Certified -** *The 8(a) program is a business development program for companies owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals. The Guam PTAC will discuss eligibility, the online application, and follow-up documentation.*

■ **Oct. 26, 2022 – How to get WOSB Certified –** *Women-Owned Small Business (WOSB) is an official SBA certification program. The Guam PTAC will discuss the online certification process as well as supporting document requirements.*

To register, visit: https://www.guamptac.com/news-and-events.php ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950
10/18/2022

NOTICE TO ADJACENT LANDOWNERS ALONG THE ROUTE 33 BEACH ROAD FROM AK TOYOTA TO AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK

(This notice is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds.)

CRM APPLICATION NO: SMS-2022-062
PROJECT: ROUTE 33 (BEACH ROAD) PHASE 3 & 4 REPAIR PROJECT
APPLICANT: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW)

The Department of Public Works (DPW), in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBR-DR) is proposing to repair the roads along Route 33 (Beach Road) on the Northwestern side of Saipan.

PROJECT BACKGROUND
Beach Road Phase 3 & 4 is approximately 16,323 feet or 3.09 miles that stretches from former MVA office Station 185+50 to American Memorial Park (Station 348+73). The main objectives of the Department of Public Works (DPW) are to build the road safer for motorist by road repair, anti-skid overlay and installation of new pavement markers.

The scope of work encompasses asphalt pavement reconditioning on the affected areas that are identified showing base failure will be repaired by removing, excavating, backfilling basecourse 8-inch thick and paving with new 3-inch thick asphalt within the 3.09 miles.

Overlay Dense Graded Anti-skid Pavement 1-inch thick from AK Toyota Intersection to the American Memorial Park on top of the repaired asphalt pavement. Drainage infiltrators and catch basin at near star water company. Adjustment of water and sewer manholes to match with the new grade elevation. Installation of new pavement markers on the new pavement overlay.

Written comments can be submitted by mail to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, sent by fax to 664-8315, or emailed to permitting@dcrm.gov.mp. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Route 33 Road Repair project.

/s/ JAMES A. ADA
Secretary
Department of Public Works

PROPOSED ROUTE 33 (BEACH ROAD), PHASE 3 & 4 REPAIR
Total Length = 3.09 miles

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$100K bail set for man accused of drug trafficking

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a $100,000 cash bail on a man accused of trafficking drugs on Tinian.

Last Friday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho imposed a $100,000 cash bail on Anthony H. Cruz, a man who has been under investigation by the Tinian Department of Public Safety Criminal Investigation Bureau for months for his alleged involvement in selling methamphetamine or "ice."

The Superior Court issued an arrest warrant for Cruz back on Oct. 4 but was only brought before a judge for his initial appearance and bail hearing last Friday.

During his hearing, assistant public defender Vina Seelam was appointed to represent Cruz, while Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds represented the CNMI government.

After failing to post bail, Cruz was remanded back to Department of Corrections custody and was ordered to return to court on Oct. 21, for a preliminary hearing while his arraignment was set for Oct. 24.

According to court documents, Cruz, 42, was arrested following three separate buy-walk operations conducted by the Tinian Criminal Investigation Bureau where he allegedly sold drugs to informants employed by the bureau.

Tinian CIB conducted three buy-walk operations with a confidential informant back in May 2022 and twice in September 2022.

Police stated that Cruz sold the informer a total of $280 worth of methamphetamine on those three occasions.

SHRM presents employment law update in membership meeting

The Society for Human Resources Management CNMI Chapter will host a general membership meeting at the Regency Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Saipan on Thursday, Oct. 27, 2022, starting at 12pm; doors will open at 11:30am.

Vince Camacho, managing principal of the law firm Camacho Calvo Law Group LLC, will provide an employment law update, at the federal level, to assist you in staying compliant with the latest employment laws and regulations.

The following fees apply: $30 for members; $35 for non-members

This meeting will include lunch. Seating is limited and by submitting this form you are confirming your attendance.

One person per one entry. One representative may submit multiple entries for each participant under their company. ***(SHRM)***

EX-IPI

From Page 1

the NMI to compel and sanction his former employer for its failure to respond to discovery requests.

Xiao, through his lawyer, Colin M. Thompson, has asked the court to impose sanctions on IPI in the form of payment for attorneys' fees and costs, and entering a default judgment in the plaintiffs' favor.

"On Aug. 4, 2022, IPI was served plaintiff's first request for production of documents, and plaintiff's first set of interrogatories—collectively referred to as discovery requests. However, because IPI failed to meet the Federal Rules of Civil Procedures deadlines, they should be ordered to show cause why sanctions should not be imposed. IPI should be ordered to pay attorneys' fees and costs and the court should impose other sanctions, including striking IPI's answer and entering default," Thompson stated.

According to court documents, Thompson served discovery requests to IPI's counsel at the time, Joey P. San Nicolas, last Aug. 4.

"IPI was required to serve its responses or objections to the discovery requests within 30 days, i.e., before or on Sept. 5, 2022," Thompson said.

However, prior to the request for discovery, on June 15, San Nicolas filed a motion to withdraw as counsel for IPI. The request was not granted by the court until Aug. 4.

Despite this, IPI was still required to serve its responses to the discovery requests on or before Sept. 5, Thompson argues.

"IPI failed to serve or provide its responses to plaintiff's discovery requests on or before Sept. 5, 2022," he said.

On Sept. 30, Thompson served IPI a letter to discuss IPI's failure to provide responses to discovery requests.

Pursuant to this letter, IPI was supposed to meet and confer with Thompson on Oct. 12, at 11am with IPI's registered agent, Howyo Chi, confirming receipt of the letter. However, Chi failed to meet and confer despite the agreed upon time and place.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Xiao, a construction engineer with a disability, sued the casino investor, alleging wrongful termination and retaliation under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Xiao, as relief, is seeking full back pay, benefits, and reinstatement to a position he would have obtained in the absence of discrimination or, in the alternative, front pay.

In addition, Xiao wants the court to award him an undetermined amount of damages and future economic and non-economic losses as well as attorney's fees and costs.

DPL

From Page 1

Igisomar informed Diana Alvarado, who is the U.S. Postal Services contracting officer, that they support the request, provided that the 15-year extension is approved by the CNMI Legislature.

In his letter to Alvarado dated Sept. 21, 2022, Igisomar disclosed that, after a review and in consultation with their Planning Division, DPL's Compliance Division has confirmed that the U.S. Postal Services building is constructed within its leasehold perimeter premises in Chalan Kanoa. In that regard, he said, the U.S. Postal Service is in compliance with the terms and conditions of the lease agreement dated July 19, 1997.

Igisomar said DPL's Real Estate Division will prepare a draft extension agreement and first amendment to lease agreement and that they will be contacting the Postal Service when it is ready for review.

Igisomar told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he will check as to when the expiration of the lease is as well as its terms.

BILL

From Page 1

prenticeship program within the CNMI.

Pursuant to the NMI Workforce Act of 2018, the CNMI has until 2029 to transition toward the employment of U.S. eligible workers, especially in the field of skilled labor. With the development of a U.S.-based trades workforce, the CNMI will cease to rely exclusively on non-U.S. workers, she said.

Under her legislation, a CNMI Registered Apprenticeship Program shall be established to reduce the shortage of highly skilled workers; establish systems for employers to hire and train apprentices in highly skilled trades and occupations; authorize tax credits for certain long-term apprenticeship training expenses; and ensure that apprentices continue to pay income taxes and participate in the economy.

The Labor secretary shall administer the apprenticeship program in conjunction with a locally-funded subcommittee.

The Labor secretary shall be required to ensure that proper educational accreditation standards are met and maintained by program providers, using educational classes provided by an institution of higher education or approved educational learning resources identified in the standards.

Staffler stated in the bill that apprenticeship programs are a system for training new generations of practitioners for trades and/or professions with on-the-job training and related training instruction.

Within these programs, a practitioner can be licensed to practice in their respective craft in order to gain employment in an apprentice occupation.

The lawmaker said other U.S. jurisdictions such as Guam, Hawaii, and Alabama have implemented necessary laws and apprenticeship programs that aim to develop their respective U.S.-based, local workforce.

As a territory of the U.S., Staffler said it is imperative to mirror these programs to provide the people in the CNMI with access to the education and training for the necessary skills they need to obtain employment, become financially self-sufficient, to support their families, and to contribute to the CNMI economy.

She noted that CNMI Public Law 15-5 authorizes the Northern Marianas College to establish the U.S. Registered Apprenticeship Program. Yet despite the creation of such a program, its implementation has been troublesome due to the lack of an identified funding source, sh said.

Furthermore, she said, the specified CNMI public law does not require the collaboration of the CNMI Department of Labor that is tasked to handle all labor issues within the Commonwealth.

Staffler said with this program, the input of Labor will be an invaluable source to its implementation and success.

ERRATUM

In the story of the SEED to Sail competition that was published in yesterday's edition of *Saipan Tribune*, the online story was corrected to show that Clint Albert of Eats Easy actually tied first place in the second category along with AP Solutions and they each won $15,000. They both received $10,000 each but the Northern Marianas College and University of Guam decided to throw in another $5,000 each for the total of $15,000 given to both winners. The online version of this story has now been corrected. Our apologies for his error.

Text-to-give campaign aims to rally support for Ian survivors

TAMUNING, Guam—The American Red Cross Guam and CNMI chapters rally community support for Hurricane Ian victims through a text-to-give campaign.

Hurricane Ian, a Category 4 Atlantic hurricane with 150-mph winds, has become one of the most powerful storms. Ian left a path of destruction across western Cuba and the southeast United States, leaving communities and families now struggling to cope. American Red Cross disaster relief volunteers have been working around the clock with partners and local officials to provide emergency assistance.

"Our relief work is only possible because of the generosity of people willing to help families in their darkest moments. When you make an emergency donation, you are helping supply shelters with food and water and deploy emergency response vehicles that deliver essential necessities to those impacted by Hurricane Ian," said Chita Blaise, chief executive officer of the American Red Cross Guam Chapter.

From Saturday, Oct. 15, 2022, through Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2022, Docomo Pacific customers in Guam and the CNMI can support relief efforts through text. To give, text "ARC" to 4357 (HELP) for a donation of $10. One hundred percent of the funds will be donated directly to the respective Red Cross chapter.

For those who are not Docomo Pacific customers who would like to assist, the American Red Cross is now accepting donations through Alexa with Amazon pay. This service enables you to make donations through voice using the following steps:

1. Tell Alexa, "Alexa make a donation to the American Red Cross."

2. Your donation is processed with Amazon Pay using the information already stored in your Amazon account.

To learn more about the American Cross of Guam and NMI Chapters, you can visit their respective websites:

■ Guam: https://www.redcross.org/local/guam.html

■ NMI: https://www.redcross.org/local/northern-mariana-islands.html ***(PR)***

B757

From Page 1

it is able to obtain appropriate route support, said company president Keith Stewart.

"The aircraft is configured in with 16 business class seats, 36 premium economy seats and 129 economy seats," said Stewart, "and is capable of direct flights as far as Sydney in Australia and to regional cities in the north of Japan."

The aircraft will remain on Saipan until Sunday, according to Stewart, where it will be showcased to decision makers and interested parties, including elected representatives, hotel and tour agency managers, Commonwealth Ports Authority, and the media.

"This is an opportunity to demonstrate to stakeholders the high level of service that we are able to provide with this aircraft type and to show that the CNMI can have an airline that our citizens can be extremely proud of; one that makes a positive first impression of our islands when stepping on board," said Stewart.

"Importantly, the provision of direct flights to Saipan from Australia, Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines will be transformational for our economy and provide the economic growth that we so badly need, providing much needed income and employment for our citizens," added Stewart. "Tax revenue alone for the CNMI is anticipated to be in excess of $25 million per year."

Northern Marianas Airways has been working with Anchorage-based Northern Pacific Airways to provide a turnkey aircraft and crewing solution for the operation. ***(NMA)***

BOOST Fishers Farmers Ranchers PROGRAM

Featuring the Kalamansi Family from Rota.

Fishing, farming, and ranching is an important source of food and nutritional security throughout the Marianas. For many, it is a source of income.

Such practices have been passed on from generation to generation and is an important part of our culture and indigeneity. Fishing, farming and ranching creates important ties between families and individuals, as well as strengthening ties to our environment.

The BOOST Fisher, Farmer and Rancher program is designed to promote food and nutritional security, protect and promote traditional cultural practices, as well to diversify and revitalize the economy for those engaged in commercial activity.

Priority is extended to fishers, farmers and ranchers who produce for commercial gain. Applicants who fish, farm or ranch for sustenance and/or recreational purposes shall also be considered.

Terms and conditions apply.

FAQs: How Do You Qualify:

Applicants must be able to provide evidence of any of the activities of the grant being requested. What types of evidence do I need to produce for any grant category?

FISHING

Provide evidence of fishing activities (video, photos, letters of reference, or other forms of testimonial).

Commercial fishers applying for BOOST funds must also provide a letter of intent, company profile, explanation of the use of funds, and a certificate of good standing.

FARMING

Provide evidence of farming activities (video, photos, letters of reference, or other forms of testimonial).

Commercial farmers applying for BOOST funds must also provide a letter of intent, company profile, explanation of the use of funds, and a certificate of good standing.

RANCHING

Provide evidence of ranching activities (video, photos, letters of reference, or other forms of testimonial).

Commercial ranchers applying for BOOST funds must also provide a letter of intent, company profile, explanation of the use of funds, and a certificate of good standing.

BOOST

For inquiries simply logon to www.boostcnmi.com

PPP partners clean adopted sites on Rota, Tinian, Saipan

The Governor's Council of Economic Advisers would like to recognize and thank its Public Private Partnership partners for refurbishing medians, bus stops, and parking lots throughout Rota, Tinian, and Saipan.

GCEA's PPP partners gave streets, medians, bus stops, and parking lots a much-needed restoration and significantly improved safety and visibility for motorists and pedestrians. GCEA extends a si yu'us ma'åse' and ghilisow to the following PPP partners:

- Rota: 4H Rota
- Tinian: Tinian Delegation with military volunteers
- Saipan: Indigenous Affairs Office; Saipan Magalahi Eagles Club and Saipan Magahaga Lady Eagles Group; Duty Free Saipan

For more information or to sign up for the Adopt-A-Median program and other programs, visit the GCEA website at cnmieconomy.com or contact the council at gceacnmi@gmail.com. ***(GCEA)***

GCEA

The Tinian Legislative Delegation is joined by military volunteers last Aug. 12, 2022, to clean and repaint the Jones Beach parking lot.

On Sept. 9, the Saipan Magalahi Eagles Club and Saipan Magahaga Lady Eagles Group cleaned and repainted the Kilili Beach Park parking lot.

GCEA

On Oct. 8, Duty Free Saipan cleaned the Garapan Core Sidewalks in preparation for a sidewalk curb repaint later on this year.

GCEA

On Aug. 16, the CNMI Indigenous Affairs Office finished painting a mural at the As Terlaje hill. The mural includes a bird on a tree branch in a forest and a turtle swimming in the ocean, followed by a "Welcome to the Marianas" painting.

GCEA

GCEA

On Aug. 15, 4H Rota volunteers cleaned and repainted the Sinapalo Children's Park bus stop.

From Sept. 13 to Sept. 15, the Tinian Delegation with military volunteers repainted the Broadway Estates' sidewalk curbs and speed bump to improve visibility for all motorists.

GCEA

SOROPTIMIST SIP AND CRAFT

Soroptimist Inc. NMI Chapter hosted a jewelry and card making with a Halloween flair last Oct. 8, 2022, at the Paradise Dental Clinic & Spa. From left, Anastasia Shamanaeva, Alesa Ilmov, Seina Morgan, Kimberly Morgan, Mika Backe, Dr. Ana Maria Gregor, Baila Marie Loomis, Jessy Loomis, Donna Krum, Kyrie Palec, Soroptimist president Maureen Sebangiol, Tatiana Ilmov, and Wannaby Backe. Not in the picture are Pam Brown and Merle Byrd.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BOG buys Guam-based loan portfolio from ANZ Guam

BANK OF GUAM

From left, front: Joaquin Cook, president and chief executive officer, Bank of Guam; Clarke Schaumann, regional country head of Guam and American Samoa and board director of ANZ Guam. Standing, Maria Eugenia H. Leon Guerrero, executive vice president, chief operating officer, Bank of Guam; Byron Evaristo, special assets officer, Bank of Guam; Charlotte Bautista, head of Finance, ANZ Guam; Jun Taladoc, head of Lending Support, ANZ Guam; and Jim Barron, head of Commercial, ANZ Guam.

HAGATFIA, Guam— Bank of Guam has entered into agreements to purchase a portfolio of Guam-based commercial loans and mortgages from ANZ Guam.

The agreements were signed Friday, Oct. 14, 2022, at the Bank of Guam headquarters in Hagatna.

The first phase of these agreements involves transitioning the commercial portfolio to Bank of Guam today, with the final phases expected by the end of the year.

"Bank of Guam is the 'People's Bank, known for their community focus. They are ideally placed to provide dedicated, local service to our commercial lending customers. ANZ will continue to service our deposit account customers while we are in ongoing discussions with a number of parties regarding the future of ANZ Guam, Inc.," said Clarke Schaumann, regional country head of Guam and American Samoa and board director of ANZ Guam.

Joaquin Cook, president and chief executive officer of the Bank of Guam, said that the bank has worked hard for 50 years "to continue our legacy of service, and today, we not only grow in business, but through the people we serve. We thank ANZ for trusting us with this opportunity to serve as the local trusted financial [advisers] to a new group of businesses and customers and we are proud to welcome them to the Bank of Guam familia."

Through this purchase, Bank of Guam continues its long-term growth strategy, providing depth in key markets and allowing the bank to leverage its legacy of service, expertise and integrated product offerings to an even broader base of customers. ***(BOG)***

COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA)
PO Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No. 670-234-6245 | Fax: 670-235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Friday, October 14, 2022

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA) THRU ITS CHAIRWOMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CEDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2022, AT 1:30 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CEDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CEDA BUILDING, OLEAI SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  A. Call to Order
  B. Roll Call
  C. Adoption of Agenda
  D. Adoption of Minutes
    1. August 25, 2022
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. REPORTS
  A. Executive Director's Report
    1. Administrative
      a. Board deliberation & action on rear permeable parking project
    2. Loan Matters:
      a. Deliberation & Board action on Frances S. Arriola
      b. Deliberation & Board action on additional loan payment deferment
      c. Deliberation & Board action on legal issue on a property in Rota
      d. Deliberation & Board action on Tito Sablan & the Estate of Elphidia C. Sablan†
      e. Deliberation & Board action on Maria A. & Michael Aguon loan
  B. Comptroller's Report
    1. Financial Report update
  C. Qualifying Certificate Program/Economic Development Activities
    1. Program update
IV. OLD BUSINESS
V. NEW BUSINESS
VI. OTHER MATTERS
VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. *(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)*

/s/ AUBRY M. HOCOG
Chairwoman

CANCELLED

A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

KARIDAT

(1) COMMUNITY OPERATIONS MANAGER

For more information, job description and an application visit the Karidat main office at the Sister Remedios Community Center, Chalan Kanoa.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: A completed application form, copy of diploma/degree, resume/bio-data; current police clearance within 6 months and a copy of a valid CNMI Driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.
CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2022 AT 4:00 PM

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
P.O. BOX 500861 CK
SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 664-3200/1
FAX: (670) 664-3237
info@mymarianas.com
www.mymarianas.com

REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Thursday, October 20, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.** at the **MVA Conference Room.**

MEETING AGENDA

1) Preliminary Matters
  a. Call to Order
  b. Roll Call
  c. Adoption of Agenda
  d. Adoption of Minutes
    i. September 12, 2022 Regular Board Meeting
    ii. September 19, 2022 Special Board Meeting
    iii. September 30, 2022 Special Board Meeting
    iv. October 6, 2022 Special Board Meeting
    v. October 6, 2022 Emergency Board Meeting
    vi. October 14, 2022 Special Board Meeting

2) Public Comments

3) Committee Reports
  a. Finance Committee
    i. Fund Status
    ii. Reprogramming of Funds
  b. Tourism Resumption Investment Plan (TRIP) Japan
    i. MVA-CT-22-2051 Marianas Visitors Authority Tourism Resumption Investment Plan – Airline Incentive [Japan] – United Airlines Inc.

4) Old Business

5) New Business
  a. Project DFS – Cultural Activation
  b. MVA Korea – TAMS Inc.
    i. FY2023 Marketing Plans
  c. CDBG-DR – 2023 Expenditure Plan
  d. Contracts Renewal:
    i. MVA-CT-21-2023 Representation, Promotional and Public Relations Services for the Japan Market – Access Inc.
    ii. MVA-CT-21-2024 Representation, Promotional and Public Relations Services for the Taiwan Market – AVIAREPS Taiwan
    iii. MVA-CT-21-2030 The Marianas Global Branding Services – Geo Graphics Inc.
  e. MVA Permanent Location
  f. General Membership Meeting
  g. Off-shore Offices Forum
  h. Gineptan Ha'anen Taga Festival

6. Executive Session

7) Miscellaneous/Announcements

8) Adjournment

/s/ Viola Alepuyo
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA)
PO Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No. 670-234-6245 | Fax: 670-235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Friday, October 14, 2022

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION DIVISION (DCD) OF THE COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA) THRU ITS CHAIRMAN HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE DCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2022 AT 8:30 A.M.. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CEDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CEDA BUILDING, OLEAI, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  A. Call to Order
  B. Roll Call
  C. Adoption of Agenda
  D. Adoption of Minutes – May 11, 2022
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. REPORTS
  A. DCD Financial Status
IV. OLD BUSINESS
V. NEW BUSINESS
  A. Deliberation and Board action on legal issue on a property in Rota
  B. Deliberation & Board Action on Loan Matters, as follows:
    1. Martin & Crystal Pangelinan
    2. David Atalig
VI. OTHER MATTERS
VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 1(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ FRANK LEE SN. BORJA
Chairman, DCD Board of Directors

CANCELLED

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
P.O. Box 501055 Saipan MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 | Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: https://cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 06-2022

Opening date: October 06, 2022 **Closing date: October 27, 2022**

Location: SAIPAN		**SALARY**
Positions:	(1) ARFF General Maintenance	PL 3/1 to 3/12 ($8.01/hr. to $13.70/hr.)
	(1) ARFF Mechanic II	PL 6/1 to 6/12 ($9.27/hr. to $15.85/hr.)
	(1) Custodial I	PL 1/1 to 1/12 ($7.26/hr. to $12.42/hr.)
	(1) AOA Controller-I	PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr. to $15.10/hr.)
Location: ROTA		**SALARY**
	(3) Ports Police/ARFF Trainee	PL 5/1 ($8.83/hr.)
Location: TINIAN		**SALARY**
Positions:	(2) General Maintenance I	PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr. to $13.04/hr.)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport***. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Thursday, October 27, 2022**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Resolve needed amid Russian missile strikes

Russia's response this week to an attack on a critical Crimean bridge reflected the difference between the governments in Kyiv and Moscow.

The strike on the Kerch Strait Bridge, which the Ukrainian government has not officially claimed responsibility for, was strategic. It crimped a vital supply line to territory Russia illegally cleaved through force and a sham referendum—the same method Moscow used to annex Crimea itself in 2014.

Conversely, the Kremlin's response—missile and drone attacks on noncombatants in multiple Ukrainian cities—wasn't militarily strategic, however tragic. It took at least 20 lives and injured scores more innocents, including women and children. But it did not demonstrably alter the course of a war in which Ukraine has more military momentum, methodically retaking territory from the invaders.

Russia's random strikes mean "Ukraine is winning, and Russia is reduced to strategically irrelevant war crimes, simply granting punishment on Ukrainian civilians," John Herbst, a former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, told an editorial writer.

Herbst, now senior director of the Atlantic Council's Eurasia Center, characterized the Kerch Strait Bridge as a "perfectly legitimate target," given its use as an "essential logistical hub" for Russian troops. Russia's retaliatory strikes, he said, are "awful" and "evil," yet "also irrelevant, because Ukraine is not going to surrender because civilians are dying."

Neither are Ukraine's allies. In fact, at an emergency virtual G-7 meeting on Tuesday (of the Group of Seven leading industrialized nations), leaders pledged "undeterred and steadfast" financial and military aid, including expediting more missile-defense systems.

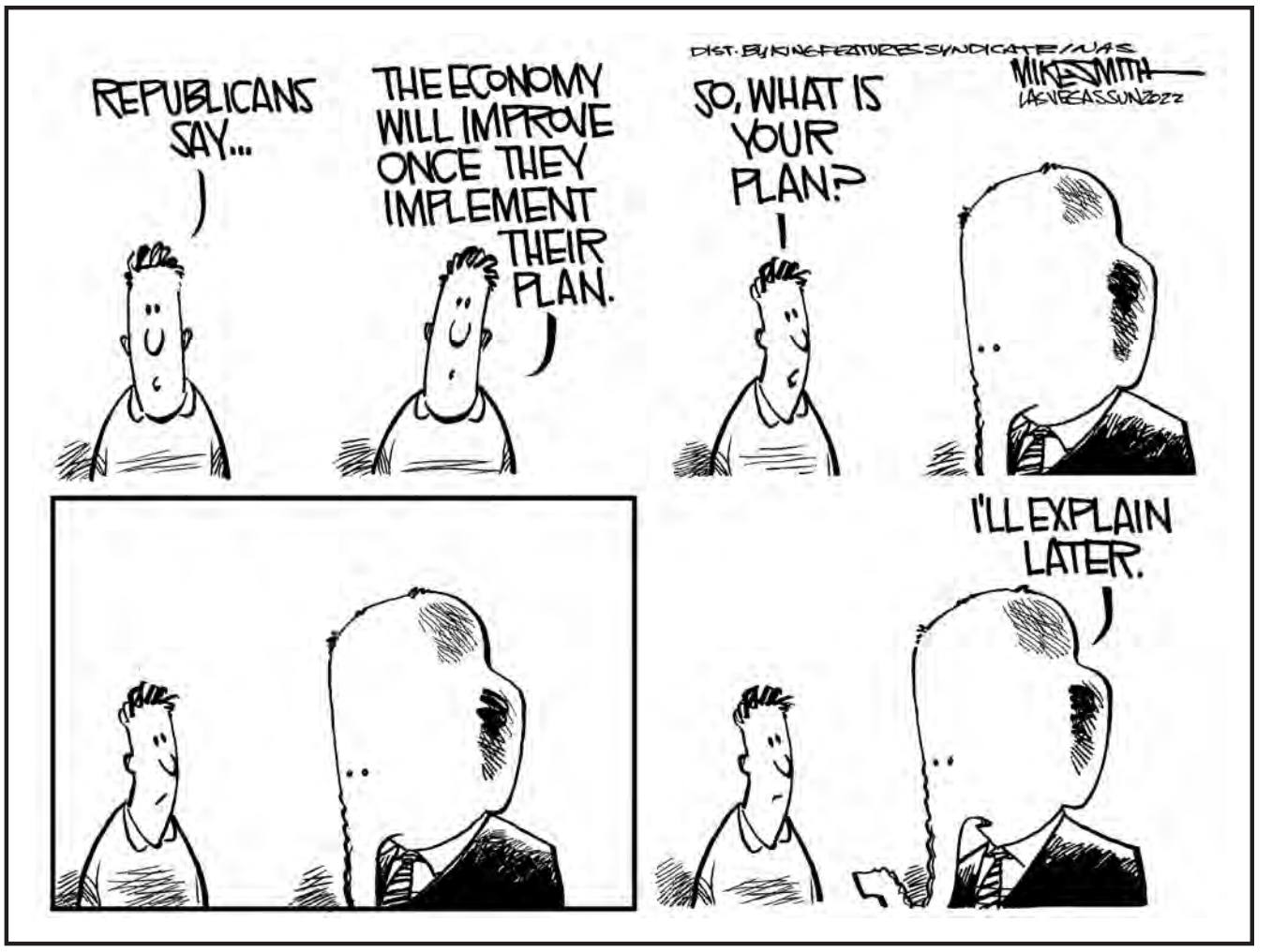
Following the G-7 session, top defense officials from about 50 nations began meeting at NATO headquarters in Brussels. The U.S.-led Ukraine Defense Contact Group will focus on sustaining the materiel it has supplied, which has made a difference in Ukraine's existential fight for its country.

In just the latest example, Ukraine announced on Wednesday that Germany had delivered the first of four highly sophisticated missile-defense systems. Meanwhile, member states of the European Union got behind a proposal to create a new mission to train thousands of Ukrainian troops on using new weapons systems.

The Contact Group "stands united and determined," U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said at the meeting. "We will continue to boost Ukraine's defensive capabilities—for today's urgent needs and for the long haul."

Austin added that $16.8 billion worth of U.S. security assistance has already been spent to aid Ukraine. In doing so, the Biden administration has had to balance two considerations, Jeffrey Pryce, a former Department of Defense official who is now a professorial lecturer at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, told an editorial writer. "One is providing as much and as effective assis-

See RUSSIAN on Next Page



Jan. 6 hearings were memorable even without many soundbites

By JONATHAN BERNSTEIN
Bloomberg Opinion

Jonathan Bernstein is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist covering politics and policy. He taught political science at the University of Texas at San Antonio and DePauw University and wrote* A Plain Blog About Politics.

What will we remember from the House hearings investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol?

Certainly not partisan squabbling, because with just two Republicans opposed to Trump on the panel, there was none. Congress scholar Molly Reynolds thinks this will be "the only congressional committee in history to have all of its recorded votes be unanimous."

Nor did individual committee members or witnesses stand out, though there were exceptions. Committee Chair Bennie Thompson and Vice Chair Liz Cheney both exerted a powerful moral presence—Thompson as a Black man from Mississippi who appreciated the importance of democracy from a legacy of its absence; Cheney as a forthright conservative whose every sentence stood as a rebuke to a party that has lost its way.

Instead, the stars of these hearings were the people who obtained, compiled and edited video. And texts. And tweets. It was the tightly controlled presentations that will be the Jan. 6 committee's lasting legacy.

Missing from these hearings were the stark confrontations that were central to, say, the Iran-Contra hearings in the late 1980s. That select committee heard live testimony from hostile witnesses, most memorably from former National Security Council staffer Oliver North. Similarly unscripted moments were the hallmark of the Watergate hearings, especially during the testimony of former White House Chief of Staff H.R. Haldeman and of John Mitchell, Richard Nixon's ex-campaign chair and former attorney general.

In contrast, the Jan. 6 hearings gave us a committee leaving nothing to chance. In addition to having a united committee, witnesses who might have been more friendly to Trump didn't show up—and those who did shielded themselves (in taped depositions) with the Fifth Amendment.

Another way the Jan. 6 hearings were different from their legendary predecessors: Former President Donald Trump was a dominant figure in these proceedings in a way that Richard Nixon never was during the Watergate sessions. Nixon wasn't entirely absent; perhaps the most famous episode of that effort was former White House Counsel John Dean's testimony about exactly how Nixon had directed him to conduct the cover-up of the Watergate break-in and other crimes.

But it wasn't the same as watching video of Trump urging on the crowd in his rally at the Ellipse on Jan. 6. Or hearing him exhort Georgia officials to find him enough votes to overturn the results in that state, a chilling clip that the committee replayed on Thursday. Or even reading Trump's tweet castigating Vice President Mike Pence while seeing video of rioters calling for Pence's death.

The committee's use of video was especially deft on Thursday. To make the point that Trump knew that he was deliberately lying to his supporters (and the entire nation) about the election, the panel repeatedly interspersed tapes of White House officials and campaign aides explaining the facts to Trump with video of Trump subsequently saying the exact opposite in public.

Even the comic relief from these hearings—Senator Josh Hawley running from the mob he had saluted moments before, or White House lawyer Eric Herschmann's amusing tales of attempting to bat down Oval Office schemes—were on tape, not live. There was nothing like the live testimony of Watergate bag man Anthony Ulasewicz or Oliver North's lawyer Brendan Sullivan objecting that he wasn't a "potted plant."

None of this could have happened had individual committee members insisted on using the platform for self-promotion. Senator Howard Baker of the Watergate committee memorably asked what the president knew and when he knew it; it's hard to think of any lines from the live testimony of the Jan. 6 hearings taking the same place in the public lexicon.

We don't yet know whether the presentations will change public perceptions or lead to concrete action against Trump. But I wouldn't ignore the importance of placing a down payment on history. A lot of journalists watched these hearings, and a lot more saw clips or read summaries. The basic story that Thompson, Cheney and their colleagues told will be absorbed by those who tuned in. That's why the choices the committee made in emphasis and presentation matter.

No one gets the last word when it comes to history, and there is still the real possibility of further indictments and trials, not to mention future books and perhaps new evidence. But sometimes the first telling of the story is the one that leaves its mark.

Enjoy the Social Security bump now. You'll pay later

By ALLISON SCHRAGER
Bloomberg Opinion

Allison Schrager is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist covering economics. A senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, she is author of An Economist Walks Into a Brothel: And Other Unexpected Places to Understand Risk.*

Social Security is known as the third rail of politics. President Joe Biden has pounced on all who dare even think about curtailing the retirement program. In fact, this week cash-strapped retirees will get the biggest cost-of-living increase in 40 years, an 8.7% boost to protect them from inflation.

For many retirees on fixed incomes, that's a godsend. Some Republicans are considering reforming the program, an idea that could be political suicide. It's also the right thing to do.

The Social Security trust fund is expected to run out of money in 2035. At that point, taxes taken in will cover only 80% of the benefits paid out each month. If nothing is done, that could mean Social Security recipients are in store for a 20% benefit cut. Recent inflation may speed up this time frame. Benefits are indexed to inflation and the tax revenue that covers the benefit increases is based on wages. If wages rise more than inflation, then Social Security stays on track. But in the last year inflation has risen more than wages, which could hasten Social Security's shortfall date.

Already, many Americans think they can't rely on Social Security. In 2019, 42% of those polled expect no benefits at all by the time they retire. This suggests some serious cognitive dissonance. Many Americans know they need Social Security and are worried it won't be there for them, but most also oppose reform.

The fact that so many people are worried that they will never see their benefits also suggests a very serious communications failure because the odds are Social Security will be there for everyone, in some form. The very worst-case scenario is a 20% benefit cut. And odds are excellent even that won't happen. Social Security is extremely popular and it's very unusual to subject pensioners to benefit cuts. Most countries would sooner default on their bondholders than cut pensions. In theory, that missing 20% could be paid for by other taxes, or by running bigger deficits.

Or maybe next decade, when coming face-to-face with the shortfall, politicians will finally address Social Security finances and either cut benefits or increase the payroll tax — or most likely, some combination of the two.

But no matter what happens, there is a cost to waiting. The Social Security Administration estimates that benefit cuts and tax increases would be smaller if the problem were addressed sooner rather than later because more generations can share the cost. Running up debt or increasing taxes may also not be so easy in another 10 years. Democrats favor increasing taxes on the people who earn more than $250,000, but the tax increases that would be necessary are large. It would take at least a 12.4 percentage point increase in marginal tax rates on higher earners. That doesn't leave much room to finance any other spending programs.

The U.S. government is already facing large unfunded debts. Entitlement obligations like Social Security (which aren't counted as debt), add another $112 trillion over the next 30 years, and it's even more expensive than normal debt because, as we saw this week, it's indexed to inflation. One of the few benefits of high inflation is that it's good for debtors because inflation erodes the value of debt. But both Social Security and Medicare's cost rise with inflation (in Medicare's case health inflation), which means even less fiscal room not only to finance entitlements, but any other programs.

When interest rates and inflation were low, it seemed politicians had all the time in the world to deal with entitlements. Now politicians who chose to ignore Social Security's financing issues appear to be banking on a return to low rates and negligible inflation.

Anyone who is concerned about entitlements and debt has been screaming into the wind for decades. But as the current environment has shown, the future is uncertain. The same people who dismissed inflation also don't think the US government will ever face constraints on its borrowing. The inflation adjustment this week should act as a warning that this is a serious risk, and now is the time to deal with it.

Good news for a change—NASA proves there's a defense against killer asteroids

By SASWATO R. DAS
Los Angeles Times

Saswato R. Das, a physicist by training, writes about science and technology.

The stock market is dipping, inflation is on the rise and there is no end in sight to the war in Ukraine. But not all the news is bad: Our planet just got a bit safer, thanks to NASA.

In a feat previously relegated to the realms of science fiction, NASA scientists successfully deflected an asteroid from its path.

On Sept. 26, DART, a spacecraft the size of a commercial dryer, hit a nonthreatening asteroid called Dimorphos—and proved that we humans might be capable of mounting an Earthly defense, should a killer asteroid one day head our way.

Such a scenario is not far-fetched. Every school kid knows that the reason we don't see dinosaurs roaming the Earth is that the impact of a giant asteroid wiped them out some 66 million years ago.

In a modern example, an object—perhaps a rocky asteroid, perhaps an icy comet—the size of a 15-story skyscraper exploded over the Tunguska River in Siberia in 1908, releasing energy equivalent to approximately 12-15 megatons of TNT (about a thousand times as powerful as the atom bomb that destroyed Hiroshima).

Most asteroids and comets that enter Earth's atmosphere vaporize quickly because of the heat produced by friction. The object in Siberia, however, got within 10 miles of the planet's surface. It flattened 80 million trees over 230 square miles. It left no crater, but the circular pattern of immense destruction is sobering.

Evidence of such events exists all over Earth. Scientists think an explosion similar to Tunguska destroyed Tall el-Hammam, an ancient walled city close to the Dead Sea, around 1650 BC.

One tell-tale sign of a planetary asteroid impact is the presence of the mineral coesite, a variant of quartz that forms only under intense heat and pressure. Mile-wide Meteor Crater in Arizona contains a lot of coesite, as do other sites across the globe. Fortunately, collisions involving an asteroid of the size (about 100 to 170 feet across), makeup and speed that produced Meteor Crater are infrequent, happening once every few hundred years, and are much more likely to hit open ocean or empty territory than a population center.

Still, such a collision could spell the end of a city like Los Angeles, and bigger asteroids could spell the end of the human race. There are thousands of these orbiting rocks in our solar system, and quite a few are on paths that bring them perilously near Earth. NASA has been finding and tracking them for more than two decades in a program sanctioned by Congress. So far none has posed a real threat.

But because the chance is not zero, NASA has looked to develop a defense mechanism. DART (short for Double Asteroid Redirection Test) tested the feasibility of changing the orbit of an asteroid, steering it away from Earth by bumping it into a new trajectory.

DART crashed into Dimorphos at a speed of just over 4 miles per second. More than three dozen telescopes around the world were watching the impact, as were the Hubble and James Webb space telescopes and the LICIACube, an Italian spacecraft designed expressly to observe DART's slamming into Dimorphos.

On Tuesday, when NASA announced that Dimorphos had indeed been diverted, it also revealed that its experiment worked better than had been predicted. Calculations had estimated that Dimorphos' orbit around its larger parent asteroid Didymos, which was 11.9 hours, would speed up by 10 minutes after DART crashed into it. The actual time observed was 32 minutes.

Watching NASA's live telecast on Sept. 26 made for fascinating viewing. DART's camera spotted Dimorphos only an hour before impact, as a faint spot of light, and it was just five minutes before the crash that the asteroid really came into focus. In the final seconds before DART made contact, the asteroid's surface—looking like a rocky, boulder-strewn field—filled the screen. Then, true to plan, the screen went dark and the scientists watching it sent up a cheer.

The DART mission isn't over yet; the data it generated is still being analyzed. The results are nonetheless in: DART has to be classed among the most successful spacecraft NASA has ever launched. For the first time in the history of our species, we've shown we might be able to defend the planet from a massive invader from space.

Tang Dynasty inspiration on Tinian

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.

This quartet of short poems was inspired by Tang Dynasty poet Liu Zongyuan (771- 819) and the island of Tinian. Liu's poems were known for "minimum words, maximum message." Tinian island provided the content.

Rainy Days on Tinian

Rainy days on Tinian make me sleepy
banana trees outside the bedroom window
I wake to musical rain on banana leaves
banana stalks bend toward the house.

Bridge to Saipan

Steep cliffs to the sea form walls
I see light from Saipan in the clouds
if I could split all the cliffs
into a million slabs of rock
I'd build a bridge across the channel.

Typhoon Coming

Southeastern cliffs chungé birds vanish
coconut crab paths broken husks
one boat offshore four poles two men
checking lines typhoon on the way.

Mayor of Naftan Rock *I'e' Party

Reef fish caught with speargun talaya pole
mafuti, parrot, tiao, trigger, tataga, yan i'e'
grilled with tangantangan fire on the beach
I'm candidate for Mayor of Naftan Rock
I'E' Party – I easily escape being caught.

(I'e' pronounced ee are also called tarakitu. They are baby or immature skipjack.)

RUSSIAN

From Page 8

tance to Ukraine as possible while at the same time controlling the risk of escalation and not allowing [the war] to spill out and involve other countries."

The assistance, Pryce said, has been "very large and really quite effective. And you'll probably see more of it in the coming days."

That would be welcome in Kyiv—and in capitals among its many allies. Ukraine's fight is our fight, too. In the words of the administration's newly issued National Security Strategy, Russia "poses an immediate threat to the free and open international system, recklessly flouting the basic laws of the international order today, as its brutal war of aggression in Ukraine has shown."

The United Nations General Assembly, which unlike the U.N. Security Council is not held hostage by Russian and Chinese vetoes, concurred on Wednesday in a lopsided vote condemning Russia's illegal annexations.

And yet, the brutality rightly identified in the national security strategy is likely to intensify, particularly as hard-liners demand unceasing civilian strikes. That tactic is likely to harden Ukrainian and allied resolve, as happened with London in World War II and Hanoi during the Vietnam War.

Herbst credited the Biden administration for its support but said more needs to be done, and sooner. Ultimately, he added, it's in America's interest.

"If we pursue our own interests, give Ukraine just about everything it's asked for because everything [requested] absolutely has been legitimate, Ukraine would probably have much more control of its territory," Herbst said. And, he added, more Ukrainians would be alive.

Tragically, more will die from Putin's criminal activity. That should spur the West to act with dispatch and determination in a worthy, winnable fight.

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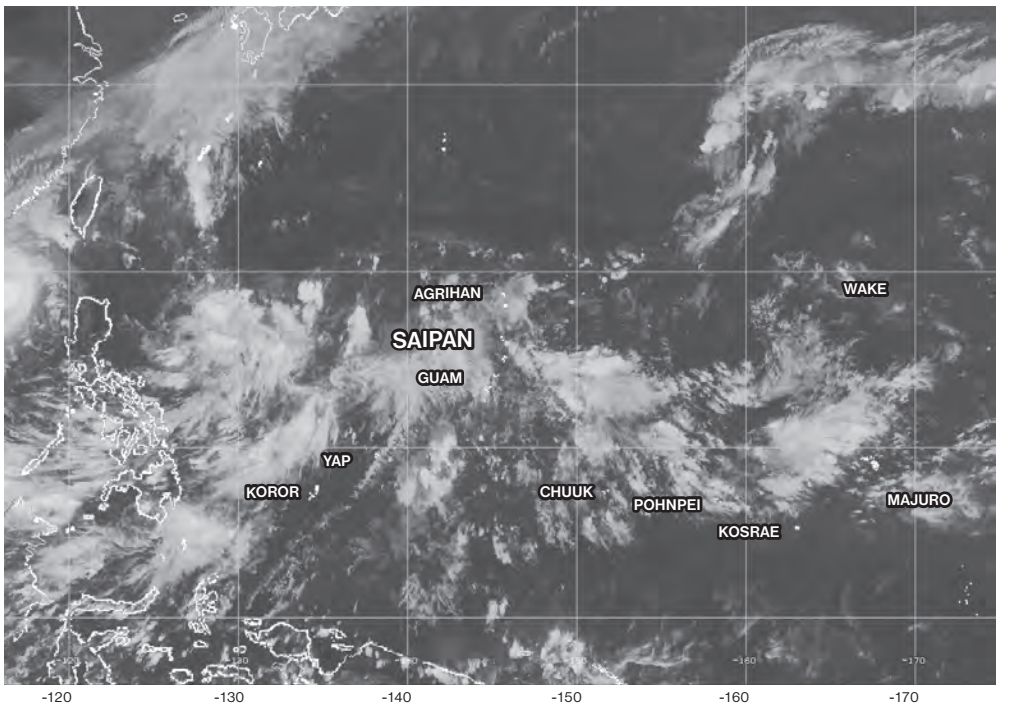
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny	Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny
87° 76°	87° 76°	88° 76°	88° 76°	88° 76°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:17 AM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An overcast deck of high clouds sits over the Marianas. To the east, showers and the occasional thunderstorm are popping up along a trade wind trough.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Palau	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 75°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:09 AM	5:55 PM
Wednesday	6:09 AM	5:54 PM
Thursday	6:09 AM	5:53 PM
Friday	6:09 AM	5:53 PM
Saturday	6:10 AM	5:52 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:09 PM	-
Wednesday	12:35 AM	1:54 PM	-
Thursday	1:27 AM	2:35 PM	-
Friday	2:18 AM	3:13 PM	-
Saturday	3:08 AM	3:50 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	65° / 53°
Beijing	Sunny	65° / 36°
Hong Kong	Rain	73° / 69°
Honolulu	Sunny	86° / 73°
London	Fog	64° / 53°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	78° / 63°
Manila	Scattered Thunderstorms	90° / 77°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	70° / 47°
Miami	Thunderstorms	84° / 75°
New York	Showers	66° / 46°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	67° / 54°
Paris	Fog	70° / 58°
Busan	Sunny	66° / 47°
Rome	Sunny	79° / 57°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	77° / 40°
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 54°
Seoul	Sunny	58° / 38°
Tokyo	Rain	65° / 54°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	68° / 40°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
7:37 AM	Low Tide	0.15
3:57 PM	High Tide	1.59
9:51 PM	Low Tide	1.18
-	-	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 6, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau
OZ624/701	4:00PM	11:05AM+1	3,6 via Incheon

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3, 4, 7
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-NARITA

UA824	7:00AM	9:30AM	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:00PM	6:35PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
UA192/112	10:25PM	5:30pm+1	5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam
UA184/112	11:50PM	5:30pm+1	5 via Guam
OZ704/623	11:55PM	2:30PM+1	2,5 via Incheon

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	4
7C3406	8:50AM	2:50PM	3, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
TW307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 6, 7
TW307	9:15AM	2:30PM	3

NARITA-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00 AM+1	2, 4, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00AM	2:00PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.	

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	

SAIPAN TO GUAM

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.	
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.	

GUAM TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.	
6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Postal worker holdup leads to muscle car theft ring arrests

DETROIT (AP)—Thieves are using cloned key fobs to steal Dodge muscle cars and other high-powered vehicles directly from dealerships and even automakers in Michigan, then selling them for tens of thousands of dollars less than their value, according to authorities and court records.

For one Ohio-based theft ring, it all came crashing down after a January holdup of a U.S. postal worker led authorities to connect several men to brazen car thefts in the Detroit area, long home to the country's biggest automakers, including Dodge, which is now owned by international conglomerate Stellantis.

Investigators then discovered that new Chargers, Challengers, Durangos and Ram pickups worth $50,000 to $100,000 were turning up in Ohio, Indianapolis and East Coast shipping ports after being sold on the street for $3,500 to $15,000, according to a criminal complaint.

Thieves in the Detroit area are primarily going after Dodge vehicles with Hellcat engines, including Chargers and Challengers — "the fast ones," Sgt. Jerry Hanna with the Macomb Auto Theft Squad said.

New vehicles are shown parked in storage lots near the the Stellantis Detroit Assembly Complex in Detroit, Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022. AP

"If a patrol car gets them, they are not stopping and they're faster than patrol cars. They're 150 mph all day," he said.

Instead of stealing them off the street, they're driving them straight off dealership and assembly plant lots.

Just this year, about a half-dozen vehicles—primarily Dodge Ram TRX pickups — were taken from a lot outside an assembly plant in Macomb County.

After security measures were stepped up at some lots with Dodge vehicles, more than a dozen 2022 Ford F-150 Raptor pickup trucks were swiped from a plant lot in June in suburban Dearborn. More than a dozen Ford Mustangs were stolen in early September from the automaker's assembly plant in Flat Rock, southeast of Detroit.

Thieves have targeted Dodges by using handheld electronic "pro pads" — a locksmith's tool that can clone keys by plugging into interior ports in the vehicles, according to the federal complaint in the Ohio case.

Authorities weren't looking for stolen vehicles when they stopped Devin Rice on Jan. 31 after a postal worker in Shaker Heights, outside Cleveland, was robbed at gunpoint of a mailbox key. But court records show that a search of his car and then his home turned up not just stolen mail, bogus checks, and credit and debit cards, but also a Ram pickup, a Range Rover SUV and a Dodge with a Hellcat engine — all stolen.

Rice and others were indicted in federal court in Ohio in June. Jaylen Harris, Lavelle Jones and Hakim Benjamin are charged with conspiracy and interstate transport of stolen vehicles. Rice, Harris and Jones also are charged with mail theft. Their trials are scheduled next year.

Harris' attorney declined comment. The AP left email and phone messages seeking comment from attorneys for Benjamin, Rice and Jones.

Harris told the FBI that he and Jones had been in contact through Instagram with people in the Detroit area to get stolen vehicles, according to the complaint. Harris said those thieves "were also selling to buyers in other areas, including Chicago and Indianapolis," the complaint said.

Videos posted on social media show how the high-horsepower vehicles outpaced and evaded police.

A judge stated in a detention order that "Benjamin drove a 2022 Dodge Challenger valued at $95,000 at 120 mph down Ohio's State Route 2 on a Sunday evening in February."

"Spike strips were eventually needed to remind Benjamin that the law required him to comply with police orders" the judge wrote.

About two years ago, police in Ohio's Ottawa County began noticing the vehicles blasting along state Route 2. The sheriff's office got calls about reckless driving, Capt. Aaron Leist said.

"These cars are going 140-150 mph. All have the Hellcat engines. We had a lot of pursuits. We did not catch them all," he said.

Investigators learned the vehicles mostly were being stolen in the Detroit area and taken to Cleveland. Some also were destined for Memphis, Tennessee, Leist said.

"We started working with (Stellantis) in early 2022," he said. "They would call us and tell us `We have these cars missing.'"

A spokeswoman for Stellantis declined to comment.

The Gates Foundation pledges $1.2B to eradicate polio globally

BERLIN (AP)—The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation says it will commit $1.2 billion to the effort to end polio worldwide.

The money will be used to help implement the Global Polio Eradication Initiative's strategy through 2026. The initiative is trying to end the polio virus in Pakistan and Afghanistan, the last two endemic countries, the foundation said in a statement Sunday.

The money also will be used to stop outbreaks of new variants of the virus. The announcement was made Sunday at the World Health Summit in Berlin.

The foundation says in a statement on its website that it has contributed nearly $5 billion to the polio eradication initiative. The initiative is trying to integrate polio campaigns into broader health services, while it scales up use of the novel oral polio vaccine type 2.

The group also is working to make national health systems stronger so countries are better prepared for future health threats, the statement said.

"The last steps to eradication are by far the toughest. But our foundation remains dedicated to a polio-free future, and we're optimistic that we will see it soon," said foundation CEO Mark Suzman.

Pakistan has reported 20 polio cases so far this year, all in the north-western Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Afghanistan, which has registered two cases this year, previously lacked access to vaccines because of violence and the Taliban banning polio teams in areas under its control. However last year, a few months after they took over Afghanistan, the Taliban agreed to allow United Nations health workers to begin a national campaign.

Pakistan has long struggled with Islamic militants targeting polio workers and the police protecting them, falsely claiming that vaccinations are a Western campaign to sterilize children. This year, it has the added challenge of unprecedented rainfall destroying road networks and health facilities, limiting vaccination drives, and displacing communities.

Small businesses brace for cautious holiday shoppers

NEW YORK (AP)—Small businesses are stocking the shelves early this holiday season and waiting to see how many gifts inflation-weary shoppers feel like giving.

Holiday shopping was relatively strong during the past two years as shoppers flocked online to spend, aided by pandemic stimulus dollars. Sales in November and December have been averaging roughly 20% of annual retail sales, according to National Retail Federation, making the holiday season critical for many retailers.

This year, small businesses are bracing for a more muted season, as some Americans spend more cautiously. AlixPartners, the global consulting firm, forecasts that holiday sales will rise between 4% to 7%, far below last year's growth of 16%. With inflation running above 8%, retailers would see a decrease in real sales.

To prepare, owners say they're ordering inventory earlier to avoid the supply-chain snags that frustrated them the past two holiday seasons and to draw in early birds. They're stepping up discounts as much as they can in the face of their own higher costs. And owners also hope more people will shop in stores and holiday markets after doing more of their shopping online during the pandemic.

Max Rhodes, CEO of Faire, an online marketplace used by small businesses to sell their wares wholesale as well as buy goods for retail shops, said he's seeing earlier ordering from merchants who for two years had trouble getting enough holiday inventory stocked in time for Christmas. Stores faced shortages of everything from holiday décor to gift items as COVID-19 lockdowns forced factories to shut, costs rose and fewer shipping containers and truckers were available -- all causing delivery snarls.

A study for the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals by global consulting firm Kearney found U.S. business logistics costs surged 22.4% in 2021 to $1.85 trillion.

"There's a bit of a hangover from that, a bit of fear," Rhodes said. While it's too early for sales data, the term "Christmas" was the most searched for term on the site in mid-September. That's two weeks earlier than last year, and eight weeks earlier than 2020, Rhodes said.

"The one thing we're certain of is it's not going to be predictable … We really don't know what to expect and our retailers feel the same way," Rhodes said .

Mat Pond operates The Epicurean Trader in San Francisco, including four brick-and-mortar stores, an online shop and a corporate gift basket business. In past years, he started building inventory in November, but this year he's already stocking up on items such as gourmet food, chocolate, wine and giftware. He's seeing corporations order holiday gift baskets earlier as well.

"Everyone's planning ahead," Pond said. "I think everybody's learning from the past two years."

While the pandemic's economic impact has subsided somewhat, consumers are now being tag-teamed by high inflation and rising interest rates. Overall, spending has held up, although some Americans have been forced to pull back on discretionary items. Any decline can be meaningful because consumer spending makes up 70% of economic activity.

Hannah Nash, the owner of the online jeweler Lucy Nash, expects sales of her earrings, bracelets and other jewelry to slow after two years of strong growth. The main culprit: inflation.

Nation

For Biden and Trump, 2022 is 2020 sequel—and 2024 preview?

AP

President Joe Biden speaks about infrastructure investments at the LA Metro, D Line (Purple) Extension Transit Project - Section 3, in Los Angeles, Thursday, Oct. 13, 2022.

WASHINGTON (AP)—This year's midterm elections are playing out as a strange continuation of the last presidential race — and a potential preview of the next one.

Donald Trump, who refused to exit the stage after his defeat, has spent months raging against Joe Biden, reshaping downballot campaigns that normally function as a straightforward referendum on the incumbent president.

The result is an episode of political shadowboxing with little precedent, as the current president and his immediate predecessor — and possible future challenger — crisscross the country in support of their party's candidates.

Trump has been holding raucous rallies in battleground states, where he alternates between touting his handpicked candidates and denouncing his enemies. He belittles and excoriates Biden while lying, as he did in Ohio last month, that "we didn't lose" the last election.

Biden has so far steered clear of some of the tightest midterm races, instead focusing on fundraisers and official events where he draws contrasts between Democratic and Republican policy agendas. He often avoids direct references to "the last guy," but on Saturday in Oregon, Biden warned that "Trump controls the Republican Party."

Sometimes the two men travel to the same places, such as when they visited Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, within days of each other, a reflection of the narrow political map that will determine which party controls the U.S. Senate.

"It's remarkably unusual," said Jeffrey Engel, founding director of the Center for Presidential History at Southern Methodist University, who strained to think of any comparison in previous election cycles.

"Without exception, since the Great Depression" — Republican Herbert Hoover tried to plot a path back to power despite losing to Democrat Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1932 — "we have not had a former president who believed they still had a viable political career ahead of them," he said.

Neither Trump nor Biden has formally announced they will run again. Trump has come close to declaring his candidacy, and Biden has said he intends to seek a second term.

If they face off again, the competition between them could become one of the longest and impactful political duels in American history, spanning several years and multiple elections.

Voters seem to have little appetite for a rematch.

A recent AP-NORC poll shows only about 3 in 10 Americans want either Biden or Trump to run for president in two years. Just 5 in 10 Democrats want Biden to seek a second term, while 6 out of 10 Republicans hope to see Trump seek the presidency again.

Engel said another battle between Biden and Trump would likely prove dispiriting.

"What that fundamentally means is our country is not moving forward," he said. "I have not met anybody who relishes that campaign."

However, it's clear that both men see their fortunes tied to the other.

When CNN's Jake Tapper asked Biden whether he's the only one who could fend off his predecessor in another campaign, the president sidestepped the question but expressed confidence about his chances.

"I believe I can beat Donald Trump again," he said.

Trump would take issue with the use of the word "again"—he continues to spread the lie that Biden only took office through voter fraud.

It's an integral part of Trump's political message, and he never fails to bring it up at rallies for Republican candidates who have endorsed his false views on the last election. Sometimes the rhetoric dives even deeper into conspiracies, a reminder that another campaign could represent an even sharper break with reality.

In Arizona, during his most recent rally, Trump darkly suggested that Biden is surrounded by "vicious, very smart people" who are "pulling strings."

"No one thought this could happen in our country, and it all happened because of a rigged and stolen election," he said.

The former president has also tightened his embrace of the QAnon conspiracy theory, which portrays Trump as battling sinister, hidden forces.

GOP hopefuls turn to Pence to broaden appeal before election

NEW YORK (AP)—In Donald Trump's assessment, Mike Pence "committed political suicide" on Jan. 6, 2021.

By refusing to go along with the former president's unconstitutional push to overturn the results of the 2020 election, Pence became a leading target of Trump's wrath and a pariah in many Republican circles.

But the final weeks of the intensely competitive 2022 election suggest the former vice president's fortunes have shifted as he lays the groundwork for his own potential campaign for the White House in 2024.

The man who was booed last year at a conservative conference is now an in-demand surrogate for Republican candidates, including some who spent their primaries obsessively courting Trump's endorsement, in part by parroting Trump's election lies.

Pence has been traveling the country, holding events and raising millions for candidates and Republican groups, including signing fundraising solicitations for party committees.

For some campaigns in tight races, Pence is seen as something of a neutralizing agent who can help broaden their appeal beyond Trump's core base of support. That includes Arizona, with a key Senate race on Nov. 8 and what is expected to be a hotly contested stop in the 2024 presidential campaign.

Last week, Pence endorsed Senate nominee Blake Masters, who has struggled to pivot from the primary to win over moderates in a state where one-third of voters are registered independents.

"He takes a little bit of the edge off Masters with a lot of voters," veteran GOP strategist Scott Reed said. "You know Masters is new to this, first time candidate, said some silly things he probably regrets during the campaign."

Yet the endorsements can seem jarring given that Pence has spent much of the past year pushing back on Trump's election lies, which spurred the violent mob that descended on the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, while Pence was trying to preside over the formal congressional certification of Joe Biden's presidential victory. Pence and members of his family had to be rushed to safety and held for hours in an underground loading dock as the marauders roamed the hallways, some chanting, "Hang Mike Pence!" and erected a makeshift gallows outside.

Masters, during the primary, baselessly denied the 2020 results, recording a video in which he said he thought Trump had won. Masters claimed on his website that, "if we had had a free and fair election, President Trump would be sitting in the Oval Office today."

ACROSS THE NATION

Radioactive waste found at Missouri elementary school

FLORISSANT, Mo. (AP)—There is significant radioactive contamination at an elementary school in suburban St. Louis where nuclear weapons were produced during World War II, according to a new report by environmental investigation consultants. The report by Boston Chemical Data Corp. confirmed fears about contamination at Jana Elementary School in the Hazelwood School District in Florissant raised by a previous Army Corps of Engineers study. The new report is based on samples taken in August from the school, according to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Boston Chemical did not say who or what requested and funded the report. "I was heartbroken," said Ashley Bernaugh, president of the Jana parent-teacher association who has a son at the school. "It sounds so cliché, but it takes your breath from you."

Bodycam shows wounded Connecticut cop shoot ambush suspect

BRISTOL, Conn. (AP)—In agony due to a gunshot wound from an ambush that had just killed two comrades, a Connecticut police officer's bodycam shows him hobbling back behind a police cruiser and firing a single bullet at the suspect. Investigators say the shot was fatal. "Shots fired, shots fired, more cars, send everyone," a breathless Officer Alec Iurato said, according to a segment of body camera footage released Sunday. It's part of a preliminary report by the state's Office of the Inspector General in connection with Wednesday's shooting in the town of Bristol. The inspector general's office said Iurato, Sgt. Dustin DeMonte and Officer Alex Hamzy went to the house shortly before 11 p.m. in response to a 911 call. Authorities say the call was made by Nicholas Brutcher, 35.

Bird flu case prompts Omaha zoo to close several exhibits

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium has closed several exhibits and taken other precautions after one of its pelicans died from the bird flu. The zoo said one of its pink-backed pelicans that died on Thursday tested positive for the highly pathogenic avian influenza. A second pelican became ill Friday and was euthanized. As a precaution, the zoo has closed its Lied Jungle, Desert Dome and Simmons Aviary exhibits to the public for at least 10 days. The Omaha zoo was one of many across the country that closed down its aviaries and moved birds inside whenever possible to help protect them from avian influenza that is primarily spread by the droppings of wild birds. The zoo reopened its aviary in June after bird flu cases waned, but some cases continued to be reported across the country throughout the summer, and the outbreak has started to make a resurgence this fall.

Asia

China's Communist Party congress promises continuity and not change

China's President Xi Jinping, center, sits after giving a speech during the opening ceremony of the 20th National Congress of China's ruling Communist Party in Beijing, Sunday, Oct. 16, 2022. AP

BEIJING (AP)—The overarching theme emerging from China's ongoing Communist Party congress is one of continuity, not change.

The weeklong meeting, which opened Sunday, is expected to reappoint Xi Jinping as leader, reaffirm a commitment to his policies for the next five years and possibly elevate his status even further as one of the most powerful leaders in China's modern history.

A look at what's happened so far, and what's to come:

MORE OF THE SAME

This is not an inflection point for the party. That happened 10 years ago when it named Xi as leader, though it wasn't evident at the time.

Since then, Xi has reoriented China both domestically and internationally. The military has staked claims to disputed territory while diplomats have become more assertive, saying China won't be bullied by the U.S. and others.

Xi has brought back stronger state control over the economy and society, expanding censorship and arrest to stifle dissent. An unprecedented crackdown on corruption has brought down hundreds of senior officials, including some potential political rivals.

All of that is here to stay was the message from a one-hour and 45-minute party report that Xi delivered to the opening session on Sunday, extolling the party's efforts toward what he calls the "rejuvenation" of the nation.

ELEVATING XI

Xi has already swept away competitors and consolidated power. The question is whether he will gain even more power — and how.

Practically, he has placed himself in charge of the military, foreign policy, the economy and most other matters through a series of party working groups that he heads.

Symbolically, his ideology, known as Xi Jinping Thought, was enshrined in the party congress at the previous congress in 2017.

Another amendment to the constitution is on the agenda for this week's congress. No details have been divulged, but analysts say it could further raise his status in the party.

THE NEW LEADERS

It is customary for the party to unveil its top leadership for the next five years the day after the congress closes, with the small group named to the Politburo Standing Committee identified for the first time when they parade out on stage.

Xi is widely expected to be at the top, getting a third five-year term. That would dispense with an unwritten agreement for party leaders to step down after two terms.

The others named to the Standing Committee, which currently has seven members, could offer clues to Xi's future and the direction of policy.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Rights group: 59 lawyers slain in 6 years in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — At least 133 lawyers have been killed in the Philippines since the 1980s in work-related attacks, nearly half of them in the last six years during former President Rodrigo Duterte's turbulent term, a prominent group of lawyers said Saturday. The National Union of Peoples' Lawyers also said that harassment of lawyers and judges in the Philippines has continued under President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., who took office in June, despite alarms raised by the country's Supreme Court and international watchdogs. Last year, the Supreme Court condemned in a rare public expression the rising number of killings and threats against lawyers and judges and asked lower courts, law enforcers and lawyers' groups to provide information about such assaults in the last 10 years so it can take preemptive steps. The attacks "cannot be allowed in a civilized society like ours," the high court said. The lawyers' group reported to its members in a conference on Saturday that 59 of the 133 lawyers killed in the country since 1984 were slain under Duterte.

Pakistan say security forces kill 5 militants in Baluch area

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani security forces on Sunday killed in a shootout five militants in the country's restive southwest area. Security officials said the operation targeted militants in the Mastung area of Baluchistan province who were alleged to have been behind a bomb attack Friday that left three people dead and six injured. The shootout left four members of the security forces injured, Pakistan's counter-terrorism police said in a statement. The province has been the scene of a low level insurgency by Baluch separatist groups for over two decades. Islamic militants also operate in the region that borders with Iran and Afghanistan.

World

WEEK AFTER RUSSIAN STRIKES

Ukraine: Explosions rock Kyiv

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Explosive-laden suicide drones struck Ukraine's capital as families were preparing to start their week early Monday, the blasts echoing across Kyiv and sending people scurrying to shelters.

Kyiv city mayor Vitali Klitschko said the capital's central Shevchenko district was hit, damaging several apartment blocks and setting fire to a non-residential building. There was no immediate word on casualties. The drones' intended targets weren't immediately clear but Russian strikes over the past week have hit infrastructure, including power facilities.

■■■

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Pro-Kremlin officials on Sunday blamed Ukraine for a rocket attack that struck the mayor's office in Donetsk, a city controlled by the separatists, while Ukrainian officials said Russian rocket strikes hit a town across from the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, among other targets.

The attacks came as Russia's war in Ukraine nears the eight-month mark. Kyiv also reported holding the line in continued fierce fighting around Bakhmut, where Russian forces have claimed some gains amid a seven-week Ukrainian counteroffensive that has led Russian troops to retreat in some other areas.

On the front line, "the key hotspots in Donbas are (neighboring towns) Soledar and Bakhmut, where extremely heavy fighting continues," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a video address Sunday.

Those towns and Donetsk are in the industrialized Donbas region, where Russian-backed separatists have been fighting Kyiv since 2014. The Donetsk region is among four that were illegally annexed by Russia last month.

Zelenskyy accused Russia of including convicts "with long sentences for serious crimes" in its frontline troops in return for pay and amnesty— something Western intelligence officials have also asserted.

The municipal mayor's building in Donetsk was seriously damaged by the rocket attack. Plumes of smoke swirled around the building, which had rows of blown-out windows and a partially collapsed ceiling. Cars nearby were burned out. There were no immediate reports of casualties. Kyiv didn't claim responsibility or comment on the attack.

Kremlin-backed separatist authorities have accused Ukraine of numerous strikes on infrastructure and residential targets in the occupied regions using U.S.-supplied long-range HIMARS rockets.

■■■

Witnesses posted videos of drones buzzing across bright morning skies over Kyiv and of what sounded like gunshots of people trying to shoot them down.

Explosions were heard from the same central Kyiv district where a missile strike a week ago tore a hole in a children's playground. Social media posts showed smoke billowing in the early morning light.

Russian forces struck Kyiv with Iranian Shahed drones, wrote Andrii Yermak, the head of the Ukrainian president's office, in a post on the Telegram social media site. Russia has repeatedly been using the so-called suicide drones in recent weeks to target urban centers and infrastructure, including power stations.

Strikes in central Kyiv had become a rarity in the last several months after Russian forces failed to capture the capital at the beginning of the war. Last week's early morning strikes were the first explosions heard in Kyiv's city center in several months, and put Kyiv as well as the rest of the country back on edge as the war nears nine months. Monday's blasts seemed to continue what many fear could become more common occurrences in urban centers.

Iran prison fire death toll rises to 8 inmates killed

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Iran's judiciary raised the death toll Monday in a blaze at Tehran's notorious Evin prison, saying that at least eight prisoners were killed as protests continue nationwide.

Details still remain scarce over the fire at Evin prison, which broke out on Saturday night as nationwide anti-government protests triggered by the death of a young woman in police custody entered a fifth week.

The judiciary's Mizan news agency offered the new toll, saying the prisoners had succumbed to their injuries Sunday from the incident.

It said all those dead had been held on theft charges. Mizan described the incident as a "fight between inmates and a fire," though it offered no evidence to support the claim. Activists outside of Iran say they remain skeptical of the Iranian government's claims, particularly as their recent descriptions of the nationwide protests have drastically differed with those on the ground.

Flames and thick smoke rising from Tehran's Evin Prison had been widely visible Saturday night. In online videos, gunshots and explosions could be heard in the area of the prison.

The blaze was extinguished after several hours and no detainees escaped, state media said.

Authorities have attempted to distance the events at the prison from the ongoing protests, while state media has offered conflicting accounts of the violence. Hundreds are being held at Evin, where human rights groups have reported repeated abuses of prisoners.

The protests erupted after public outrage over the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in police custody. She was arrested by Iran's morality police in Tehran for violating the Islamic Republic's strict dress code. Iran's government insists Amini was not mistreated in police custody, but her family says her body showed bruises and other signs of beating after she was detained.

President Joe Biden, on a weekend trip to Oregon, said the Iranian "government is so oppressive" and that he had an "enormous amount of respect for people marching in the streets."

Evin Prison, which holds detainees facing security-related charges and includes dual citizens, has been charged by rights groups with abusing inmates. The facility has long been known for holding political prisoners as well as those with ties to the West who have been used by Iran as bargaining chips in international negotiations.

Overdrive

2023 Range Rover Sport

plug-in hybrid is a gracious great Brit

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

As someone who flies fairly frequently, I am convinced that airline executives (who most likely fly in private jets) care only about jamming as many customers onto their flights as possible, providing the same amount of comfort afforded cattle before the slaughter.

The same is not true of cars, fortunately, which are designed with comfort as a top priority. A case in point is the all-new redesigned 2023 Range Rover Sport. A smaller, sportier rendition of the also-redesigned Range Rover, it shares its underpinnings with its larger sibling but plays the part of the more athletic, bratty baby brother with hybrid, plug-in hybrid and V-8 powertrains. While there's no full EV version, it wouldn't be surprising if one were to appear next year as a 2024 model.

Its appearance and reductionist design are similar to those of the larger Range Rover. Yet it has a different attitude, a quicker windshield angle, and a somewhat more pugnacious appearance. Although it has a more chiseled back end than its smooth, stylish sibling, it still has the capability you require. Heck, its roof rack can support 220 pounds.

Climb aboard and you'll find a cabin with the same exquisite materials impeccably designed with a modernist eye. There are other minor differences, such the carbon fiber trim on our test vehicle. The Sport's lower seating position, higher beltline and a taller center console that makes it feel more like a cockpit than the larger Range Rover. Similarly, the second row's legroom is less expansive, but the Sport's sporting ambitions make the second row less important.

But it still has the niceties you expect and some you may not, such as a chilled center console bin large enough to hold and a wireless device charger. A 13.1-inch curved multimedia touchscreen and 13.7-inch digital instrument cluster lend the cabin a high-tech appeal. Wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto are standard. And the 1,430-watt, 29-speaker Meridian Signature sound system is so excellent that it reveals the audio flaws in digitally recorded music.

Given its station, it may not surprise you that the Sport can be fitted with a variety of powertrains.

The base P360 SE comes with a 3.0-liter turbocharged straight-six mild hybrid, generating 355 horsepower and 369 pound-feet of torque. Choose the P400 SE Dynamic instead and that jumps to 395 horsepower and 406 pound-feet of torque. You can also opt for the P440e Autobiography, equipped with the same gas engine, but mated to a 105-kilowatt electric motor and a 31.8-kilowatt-hour battery pack that allows it to travel 48 miles on electricity alone while providing 434 horsepower and 619 pound-feet of torque. However, the P530 First Edition is the sportiest of Sports, with its twin-turbocharged 4.4-liter V-8 producing 523 horsepower and 553 pound-feet of torque and reaching 60 mph in 4.3 seconds. Yum.

All the Range Rover Sports have an air suspension, all-wheel steering, an electronic active differential with torque vectoring to improve handling. Adaptive off-road cruise control enhances its already impressive Terrain Response System, which includes multiple drive modes depending you what road, trail, mud bog, beach or rock-strewn hillside you're driving over.

Despite the larger Range Rover being no slouch, the Range Rover Sport handles better. Its strongest feature is its versatility; with a turn of the Terrain Response dial, it can transform from the cozily comfortable SUV you'd expect into an agile on-road vehicle or an equally adept off-road warrior. However, its rear-wheel steering proves to be the most beneficial. Its main advantage, which is tightening the vehicle's turning radius, enables it to operate much more like a smaller vehicle, whether on the street or on the trail. And it's the latter that's particularly helpful when in a tight spot.

Having had the chance to sample both a V-8 model and the upper-level plug-in hybrid, I noticed that the V-8's swift, smooth power is always accessible whenever you need it. It also delivers just enough snarl to captivate, not irritate.

In contrast, the six-cylinder plug-in hybrid also provides plenty of power. But the battery pack and motors' additional weight affects acceleration, even if it is still fairly speedy. It's most noticeable when attempting to pass on another car. On the plus side, It returns 21 mpg in combined city/highway driving according to the EPA, compared to 18 mpg for the V-8.

Given its abundant responsiveness, the V-8 is much more enjoyable, even if you might be tempted to choose the hybrid. But the hybrid's ability to travel 48 miles using nothing but watts future-proofs the vehicle for a fuel-free future. And since Americans travel 29 miles a day on average, you might never need the gas engine. It's a worthwhile trade-off.

If it seems that gracious travel is dead, then stop flying and opt for a road trip in the 2023 Range Rover Sport instead. It is the ultimate mobile servant, with an adaptable deportment and able athleticism delivered with all the civility you'd expect of a great British brand.

NUTS & BOLTS

2023 Range Rover Sport PHEV

- Base price: $104,200
- Engine: Turbocharged 3.0-liter straight-six mild-hybrid
- Horsepower/Torque: 434/619 pound-feet
- Electric-only range: 48 miles
- EPA fuel economy (combined): 21 mpg
- Length/Width/Height: 195/87/72 inches
- Ground clearance: 10.8 inches
- Cargo capacity: 29.5-65.7 cubic feet
- Towing capacity: 7,716 pounds

LAND ROVER/TNS
The 2023 Range Rover Sport has a 13.1-inch curved multimedia touchscreen and 13.7-inch digital instrument cluster.

LAND ROVER/TNS
The 2023 Range Rover Sport offers hybrid, plug-in hybrid and V8 powertrains.

How often for brake fluid flush?

Q: I own a 2020 Subaru Forester. The maintenance guide suggests a brake fluid flush every 30,000 miles/24 months. I have never owned any vehicle that has recommended this with such frequency. The brake fluid in the reservoir is very much a honey gold color but I presume this may not be indicative of the fluid circulating. Is this really necessary or is this one of the rare manufacturer maintenance recommendations that is not justified from a mechanical point of view?

A: Brake hydraulic system designs may vary by manufacturer and may factor into maintenance schedules. You may be able to extend your fluid flushes by testing the brake fluid for signs of corrosion that can lead to ABS problems. A test strip product such as Strip Dip may show issues or possibly prove you may not need a fluid change.

■■■

Q: The 2015 Subaru Forester is designed so that the headlights remain on even when the ignition key is in the off position. Is this a standard design feature for most cars? It can cause battery issues if driving with the headlights on during the day in rainy weather and then stopping at a rest stop for a break while remaining in the car. If you don't either turn the headlights off or physically remove the key from the ignition, you could end up needing to jump the battery (no fun if you are on a trip).

A: Consider it a feature, not a bug. When you select the automatic headlights on/off feature, the lights stay on long enough for you to safely walk away from the car. If you leave the key in the ignition, the headlights are a reminder that you forgot to remove the key. It is a bad habit to leave the key in an unattended car.

■■■

Q: Our 2014 Kia Soul has a little over 40,000 miles on the clock. I'm thinking it is getting close to time for replacing the serpentine belt, (which looks shiny and new) since I believe the Vegas temps may hasten its demise. I would much appreciate your thoughts if indeed it would be time to replace the serpentine belt.

A: The serpentine belt, the one that snakes around the accessory pullies on the front of the engine, doesn't usually snap suddenly. Small cracks in the grooved side are normal, but chunks are not. It is unlikely your belt is worn, and you can check it with a plastic tool that many parts stores give away.

■■■

Q: I leave my key fob in my unlocked car; the car is in my garage, which is locked. Does leaving the key fob overnight in my car drain the key fob's battery?

A: The key fob battery won't drain prematurely but leaving the fob inside some cars may keep some control modules awake. That might put a drain on the automobile's 12-volt battery.

■■■

Q: You recently responded to a reader who was looking for a locking gas cap for his 2001 BMW Z3 roadster. I have a 1998 BMW Z3 roadster and recently discovered that my gas cap was missing. I never locked it. My BMW dealer told me they don't make the part; there is no substitute. I ended up purchasing a nonlocking gas cap from a supplier my son-in-law found that supposedly will pass emissions testing. We'll soon see.

A: If the check engine light stays off, the new cap is doing its job of sealing properly.

MOTORMOUTH
By BOB WEBER
Chicago Tribune

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. *Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.*

Life & Style

Dolly Parton donation strategy: 'I just give from my heart'

NEW YORK (AP)—Dolly Parton laughs at the idea that she is some sort of secret philanthropist.

Sure, social media sleuths did piece together this week that the country superstar had been quietly paying for the band uniforms of many Tennessee high schools for years. And yes, it did take decades for her to reveal that she used the songwriting royalties she earned from Whitney Houston's version of "I Will Always Love You" to purchase a strip mall in Nashville to support the surrounding Black neighborhood in her honor. Oh, and it did eventually come out that Parton had donated $1 million for research that helped create the Moderna vaccine for COVID-19.

"I don't do it for attention," she told The Associated Press in an interview, shortly before she received the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy at Gotham Hall in New York City Thursday night. "But look! I'm getting a lot of attention by doing it."

AP

Dolly Parton poses for a picture before the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy Ceremony at Gotham Hall on Thursday, Oct. 13, 2022, in New York.

In fact, Parton believes she gets too much attention for her philanthropic work—which ranges from promoting childhood literacy to supporting those affected by natural disasters and providing numerous college scholarships through her Dollywood Foundation.

"I get paid more attention than maybe some others that are doing more than me," Parton said, adding that she hopes that attention inspires more people to help others.

In her Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy speech, Parton said she doesn't really have a strategy for her donations.

"I just give from my heart," she said. "I never know what I'm going to do or why I'm gonna do it. I just see a need and if I can fill it, then I will."

One need Parton does focus on filling is fostering a love of reading in children. Her Imagination Library initiative sends a free book every month to children under five whose parents request them. Currently, Parton sends out about 2 million free books each month.

"This actually started because my father could not read and write and I saw how crippling that could be," she said. "My dad was a very smart man. And I often wondered what he could have done had he been able to read and write. So that is the inspiration."

That program continues to expand. And last month, the state of California partnered with Imagination Library to make the program available to the millions of children under five in the state.

"That is a big deal," she said. "That's a lot of children. And we're so honored and proud to have all the communities that make that happen because I get a lot of glory for the work a whole lot of people are doing."

Parton said she'll accept that attention because it furthers the cause. "I'm proud to be the voice out there doing what I can to get more books into the hands of more children," she said.

Eric Isaacs, president of the Carnegie Institution for Science and a member of the medal selection committee, said Parton is a "tremendous example" of someone who understands the importance of philanthropy.

"Everyone knows her music," he said. "They might know Dollywood for entertainment, more broadly. But now they're going to know her for her philanthropy, which I'm not sure they have before."

If Parton didn't make philanthropy a priority in her life, it could be difficult to balance it with all her other pursuits.

She released "Run, Rose, Run," a best-selling novel co-written with James Patterson, in March. She filmed the holiday movie "Dolly Parton's Mountain Magic Christmas" with Willie Nelson, Miley Cyrus and Jimmy Fallon for NBC. And she will be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on Nov. 5, alongside Eminem, Lionel Richie and Pat Benatar—an honor she initially declined, but then graciously accepted.

"I'm ready to rock," she said, adding that she has already written a new song, especially for that ceremony in Los Angeles.

But Parton is also ready to expand her philanthropic work. This year, she launched the Care More initiative at her Dollywood Parks and Resorts, which gives employees a day off to volunteer at a nonprofit of their choice.

'Gladiator' actor Russell Crowe feted in Rome

ROME (AP)—Russell Crowe, who won a best actor Academy Award for portraying a gladiator in the 2000 film of the same name, was feted Friday by the city of Rome, home to the Colosseum where real gladiators clashed before thousands of spectators through the time of the Roman Empire.

Rome Mayor Roberto Gualtieri welcomed the actor to City Hall which sits atop the ancient Capitoline Hill, stepping out on a balcony with Crowe to show off a sweeping view of the ancient Roman Forum.

Crowe was given a plaque and the title of "ambassador or Rome in the world."

The actor, speaking Italian, said, "I am always at the service of Rome."

In the film, Crowe portrayed Maximus, who was a general forced into slavery before turning into a gladiator

Crowe is in Rome these days for the city's film festival, where a movie he directed and stars in, "Poker Face," is having its world premiere.

The mayor said the city was giving the plaque "as the symbol of friendship and affection of Rome for Russell Crowe."

Battle rapper Tsu Surf facing federal racketeering charges

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—Battle rapper Tsu Surf is facing federal drug trafficking charges and other related counts following his arrest this week at a home in northern New Jersey,

The rapper, whose real name is Rahjon Cox, made his initial court appearance Friday but did not enter a plea. WNYW-TV in New York reported that Cox told the judge he had hired an attorney to represent him but the lawyer could not make the hearing, so the judge allowed another lawyer to fill in on Friday.

Cox is among 10 people who were recently indicted on racketeering charges. They are allegedly members of a New Jersey-based Crips gang set known as the Silverbacc Gorillas or "SBG".

U.S. marshals arrested the rapper Thursday afternoon at a home in Jersey City.

A spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office in New Jersey did not immediately respond to a message sent late Friday afternoon seeking comment.

Husband takes stock as marriage crumbles

DEAR ABBY: A decade ago, before my wife and I had children, we were deeply in love with each other. Everything was great in the bedroom and outside. After we had children, my wife did a 180. She's no longer affectionate with me at all.

We barely hold hands, we never hug, and kissing is prohibited except maybe a kiss before bed. We kiss like it's an obligation. There's no touching in our relationship. In the bedroom we used to be more physical and less restrained. I wanted her to be satisfied, without getting more specific. Now, if we are intimate, it's once a month during the summer and maybe twice a month otherwise. She won't allow me to touch parts of her body, and she's physically and emotionally remote.

When I addressed this with her, she informed me that other couples are intimate less frequently than we are. She has let her body go, and doesn't diet or even try to watch her weight, and I'm concerned for her health because she has become obese. If I try to bring these matters up, she flies into a rage. Abby, AM I being selfish?

MISSING THE CLOSENESS

DEAR MISSING: The answer to that question is no. Something has gone radically wrong with your marriage and you have been iced out. Sometimes when children come into the picture, couples "forget" how to be friends and lovers because they are so distracted, tired, etc. You and your wife need to discuss this in the office of a licensed therapist. If she's unwilling to do that, have some sessions alone so you can find a way to get through to her or figure out whether you want to continue living in "Siberia" until your children become adults.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: Our 10-year-old granddaughter has a speech impediment, which is becoming more and more significant. It is clear this is not something she's going to outgrow. She is homeschooled and doesn't attend any sort of speech therapy. Her mom knows it exists and has mentioned the speech issue in passing.

I don't want to offend our daughter, but I also don't want to see this sweet little girl have a problem that is going to be more difficult to fix as she gets older. Is there a diplomatic way to address this? The last thing I want to do is upset our daughter, but I'm really worried about our granddaughter. Your thoughts?

PLAINLY SPOKEN IN OREGON

DEAR PLAINLY SPOKEN: Getting your granddaughter the help she needs to overcome her speech impediment is more important than worrying about upsetting your daughter by pointing out the obvious. By all means, speak up.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: Please settle a yearly disagreement. If I offer to take the birthday girl out for lunch, I will be paying the bill. So which of us chooses the restaurant? I say I should get to choose where to host the celebration for which I'm paying. Birthday girl insists she gets to choose where I'm going to take her, since it's her birthday.

UNSURE IN FLORIDA

DEAR UNSURE: The choice of where to take your guest should be yours, not hers. Between you and me, I think she is nervy to suggest otherwise.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

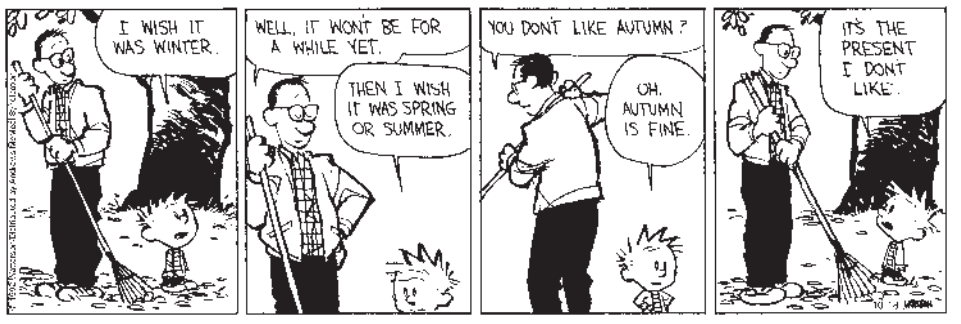
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

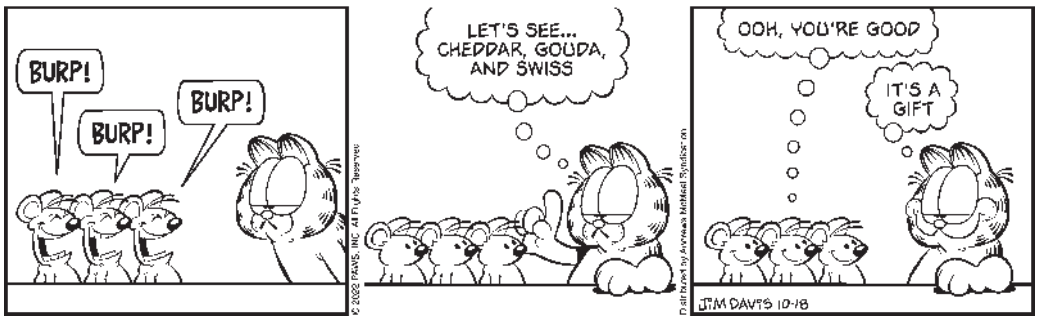
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I WISH IT WAS WINTER.
WELL, IT WON'T BE FOR A WHILE YET.
THEN I WISH IT WAS SPRING OR SUMMER.
YOU DON'T LIKE AUTUMN?
OH. AUTUMN IS FINE.
IT'S THE PRESENT I DON'T LIKE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?
BLOODY GUMMY BODY PARTS. THEY'RE SPECIAL FOR HALLOWEEN.
HAVE A GUMMY BIG TOE.
I'M GOOD.
GUMMY EAR? GUMMY ELBOW?
WHY COULDN'T THEY HAVE STOPPED AT BEARS?
I THINK THIS ONE'S AN EYEBROW?
HARRELL

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CAN WE GET THIS PET SHAMPOO? IT KILLS FLEAS AND TICKS.
NO. SORRY. IT'S TOO EXPENSIVE.
HOW 'BOUT THIS ONE? IT GIVES THEM REALLY BAD CONSTIPATION.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Stuff tightly
5 Pouch
8 Online crafts site
12 Nickelodeon's "Explorer"
13 Overly
14 Yarn
15 Mayor's workplace
17 "Neato!"
18 Center
19 Truck fuel
21 Law partner?
24 "Hey!"
25 Italian cheese, for short
26 Persistence
30 Actress Mendes
31 Erin of "Happy Days"
32 24 horas
33 Trash disposal site
35 Freebie
36 Melodies
37 Hay bundles
38 Calm
41 Author Fleming
42 Apiece
43 Nerve
48 Shade
49 Three, in Rome
50 Addict
51 Experts
52 Em halves
53 Tennis barriers

DOWN
1 Govt. health org.
2 Marseilles monarch
3 Louvre collection
4 Chaos
5 Wild guess
6 Pioneering ISP
7 Frigid spell
8 Long list's shortener (Abbr.)
9 New Mexico resort
10 Tart fruit
11 Holler
16 "Ben- —"
20 "This — outrage!"
21 Oil cartel
22 Sitarist Shankar
23 "Phooey!"
24 Salon jobs
26 Band's travel itinerary info
27 Pedestal occupant
28 Clock reading
29 Puppy barks
31 1502, in Old Rome
34 Luxury boats
35 Mexican resort
37 Sheepish remark
38 Anti-fur org.
39 Secular
40 Unwanted breakout
41 "The — of March"
44 Coffee vessel
45 British verb ending
46 Hanoi holiday
47 Cen. parts

Solution time: 22 mins.

W	E	B		R	U	P	E	E		T	C	T
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¯	J	R	K	E	Y	L	E	G		I	C	E
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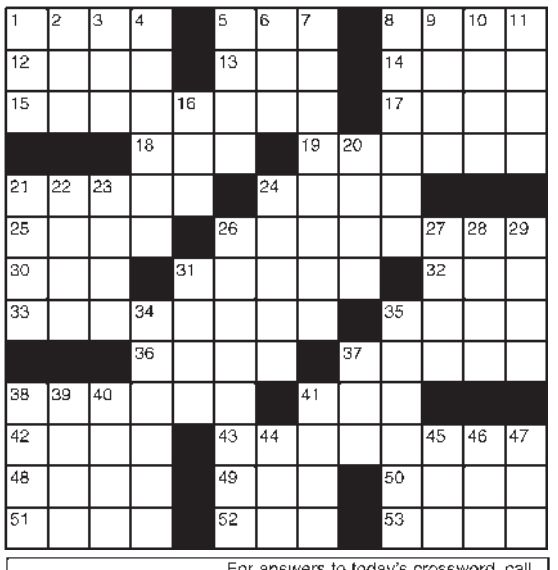
G	E	E		J	E	I	I	Y		G	Y	M

Yesterday's answer 10-18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Zac Efron, 35; Esperanza Spalding, 38; Freida Pinto, 38; Wynton Marsalis, 61.

Happy Birthday: Balance, equality and heading in a direction that makes you feel good about yourself and what you do will make a difference in how things unfold this year. Don't let anyone put pressure on you. It's up to you to make fulfilling decisions that take you where you want to go without interference. Speak up, protect your rights and proceed. Your numbers are 2, 10, 24, 27, 33, 35, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Deal with emotional issues without delay. Speak up, discuss your concerns and offer solutions that motivate others to contribute to achieving the results you want. Make personal gain, love and health your priorities, and nurture relationships to avoid drifting apart. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* You must play by the rules if you want to win. Speak from the heart and be willing to follow through with the promises you make. Take ownership of the changes you bring about and deal with the fallout responsibly. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Stretching your imagination and doing something you find entertaining will encourage you to broaden your perspective and head in a direction that promotes more advancement and exciting days ahead. Live in the moment, laugh out loud and love passionately. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Assess your situation, and you'll devise a decent plan that will encourage the opportunity to raise your profile or income. Step outside your comfort zone if it will help you surpass the competition or anyone who opposes you. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Dream and push yourself to discover all you need to know about something that interests you, then announce what you will do next. Put your mind to work and you'll find out how disciplined and effective you can become. Leave nothing to chance. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Study, discover and put your plan in place. Question anything you think might pose a problem so you can eliminate mistakes. Offer empathy and insight to someone who can help you. An incentive will give you bargaining power. Set high standards. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Set goals and stick to them, regardless of what others want. Putting yourself first will ensure progress and give you more options to help others when you can make a difference. Personal growth is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Inviting change before you have everything in place will result in uncertainty. Take your time and map out a plan that puts your mind at ease and points you in the right direction. Don't spend on things you don't need. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Look for the straightest path to get where you want to go, then proceed. Don't rely on others to lead the way or fix a problem. Look for a financial opportunity to help you grow your savings and ease your mind. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Emotional discussions are necessary if you want to avoid discord. Gather everyone's thoughts before you decide what to do next. Refuse to let temptation set in or pretenses lead you astray. Do what's best for you. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* You've got the right idea, so don't second-guess your next move. Take the high road and finish what you start. Your happiness depends on you doing what's suitable for you now. Invest in yourself, your home and your prospects. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Haste makes waste. Slow down, review essential details, and adjust your plans to meet demand and ensure progress. Look at the big picture, but change only what's necessary now. Time is on your side, and patience will prevent mistakes. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are charismatic, enthusiastic and dedicated. You are social and entertaining.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		4						
	6		2			7		1
		8		4		5		
1	9		8		7	6		
				9				
		6	4		5		2	3
		7		5		1		
8		5			6		7	
						4		

Difficulty Level ★★ 10/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesturday Answer

8	2	9	6	5	7	1	4	3
1	4	7	3	8	2	9	6	5
3	5	6	4	1	9	2	8	7
6	1	5	8	9	4	3	7	2
7	8	2	1	3	5	4	9	6
9	3	4	2	7	6	8	5	1
5	6	3	9	2	8	7	1	4
2	7	8	5	4	1	6	3	9
4	9	1	7	6	3	5	2	8

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SERENA WILLLIAMS RETIRES Solution: 9 letters

A	A	C	A	D	E	M	Y	T	C	G	O	L	D	O
V	L	T	A	R	F	R	J	H	R	O	N	N	E	R
I	E	E	A	N	E	I	E	A	P	O	U	W	I	A
D	S	N	X	O	A	T	N	N	M	O	P	R	M	C
D	E	N	U	I	G	D	S	A	G	E	R	S	T	E
R	L	I	T	S	S	E	I	I	L	I	K	T	L	N
A	B	S	R	L	S	H	D	A	S	S	S	A	Y	E
H	U	M	A	T	C	H	A	N	N	E	U	E	N	N
C	O	M	P	T	O	N	O	B	U	E	V	C	D	O
I	D	O	L	N	E	M	O	W	R	T	Ⓝ	R	R	I
R	S	E	R	E	N	A	S	L	A	M	Ⓔ	P	E	H
L	A	N	O	I	S	S	E	F	O	R	Ⓟ	Y	A	S
L	L	E	D	O	A	I	P	M	Y	L	Ⓞ	U	S	A
I	K	C	I	R	T	A	P	A	D	I	R	O	L	F
J	N	E	K	I	N	A	I	L	A	R	T	S	U	A

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Academy, Alexis, Australian, Avid, Canadian, Compton, Court, Designer, Doubles, Fashion, Finals, Florida, G.O.A.T, Gold, Grand Slam, Idol, Isha, Jameka, Jill, Lauerlei, Lyndrea, Match, Nike, Olympia, Open, Oracene, Part, Patrick, Professional, Richard, Ronner, Serena Slam, Serves, Show, Sister, Sport, Tennis, Trophy, USA, Venus, Women, Yetunde, YPRC

Yesterday's Answer: French Riviera

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 56 through 70, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Cole, Yankees save season, beat Guards to force ALDS Game 5

CLEVELAND (AP)—Gerrit Cole brought the Yankees back from the brink. They're Bronx bound, still chasing a championship.

Cole gave New York what it needed, seven solid innings and Harrison Bader hit a two-run homer as the Yankees forced a decisive fifth game in the AL Division Series with a 4-2 win over the Cleveland Guardians in Game 4 on Sunday night.

There was no margin for error, no second chances. Cole, who failed in a similar spot last October, had the weight of New York's season, the one Aaron Judge's home-run swing made historic, on his shoulders.

He handled it. Like an ace should.

"Preparing for this game, there's an opportunity to clinch or an opportunity to go home, I didn't approach the game any different," Cole said. "I just went out there and did my job."

New York's $324 million man, Cole allowed two runs and struck out eight in beating the Guardians for the second time in six days. He didn't dominate, but Cole kept Cleveland's hitters off base and off balance.

Bader homered for the third time in the best-of-five series, connecting in the second inning off Cal Quantrill, who came in unbeaten in 44 games at Progressive Field.

After blowing Game 3 on Saturday, when the Yankees' bullpen had its greatest meltdown in the team's storied postseason history, New York recovered and is headed home for a winner-moves-on game.

New York will start Game 2 loser Jameson Taillon against Aaron Civale on Monday night at Yankee Stadium. The winner advances to meet Houston in the AL Championship Series.

Josh Naylor homered for the Guardians, who are trying to end Major League Baseball's current longest World Series drought in their first year after a franchise name change. Cleveland hasn't won it all since 1948.

With a history of postseason heartbreak, Cleveland teams are 1-7 in winner-take-all games.

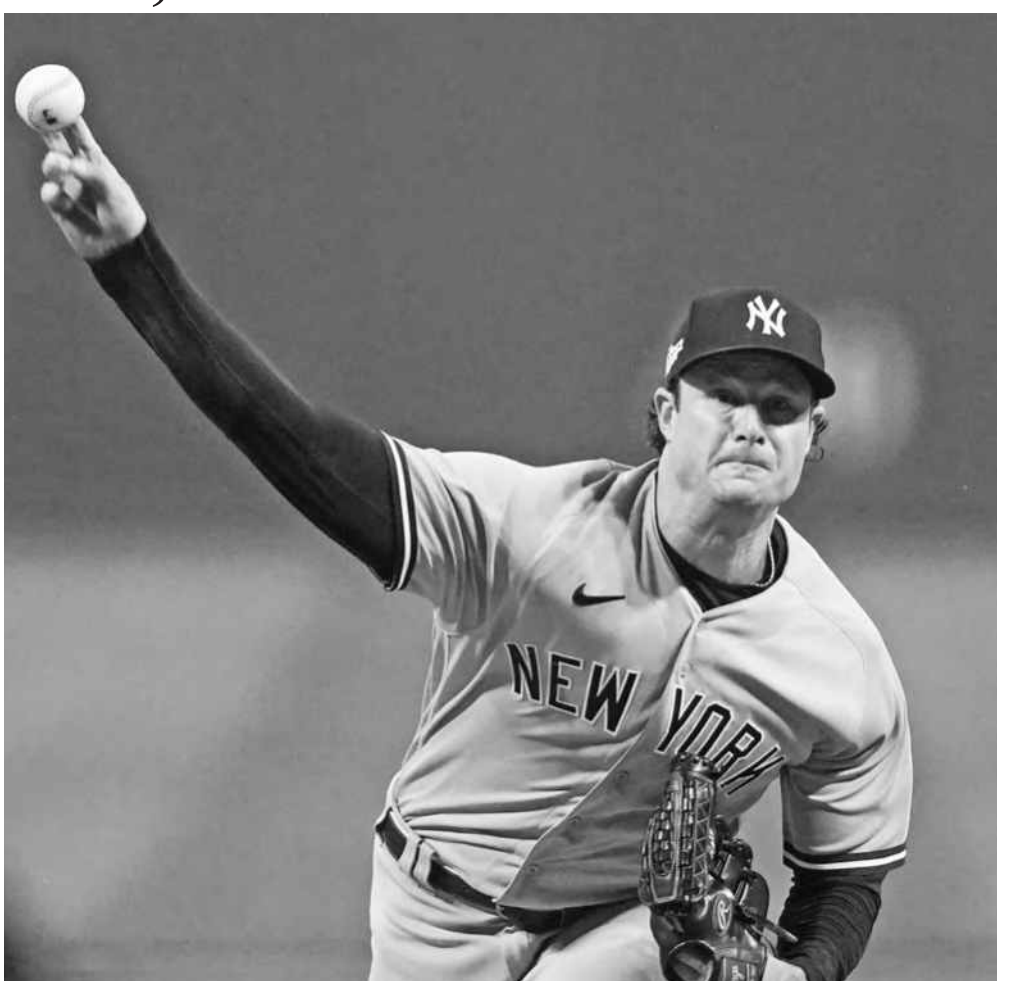
"You know if you would have told me back in March, we just signed up to play Game 5 in New York to go to the ALCS, I would have jogged to New York," Guardians manager Terry Francona said. "I'm excited."

Cole was pulled after 110 pitches and Yankees manager Aaron Boone brought in closer Clay Holmes for the eighth. Holmes didn't pitch in Game 3 after Boone decided to shut him down but didn't tell the right-hander.

Holmes struck out Amed Rosario and All-Star José Ramírez in the eighth before Wandy Peralta finished for the save. Working his third straight day, Peralta retired three batters on just seven pitches.

"Our guys had that look in their eyes tonight, and it starts with Gerrit," first baseman Anthony Rizzo said. "It's a complete win for us and that's who we are and that's the wins we need to have."

The Guardians weren't supposed to be here. But they won the AL Central, swept Tampa Bay in the wild-card round and had the Yankees on the cusp of elimination. All Cleveland's kids have to do now is beat the Yankees in baseball's most hostile environment.



AP

New York Yankees' Gerrit Cole pitches in the first inning of Game 4 of a baseball AL Division Series against the Cleveland Guardians, Sunday, Oct. 16, 2022, in Cleveland.

"It's going to be exciting," Civale said. "Everyone that was there saw what it was like. It's going to be crazy, it's going to be a lot of screaming and a lot of fans. But at the end of the day it's noise."

This was the kind of game the Yankees envisioned Cole pitching in when they signed him to a nine-year contract in 2019 as a free agent after he spent two seasons with the Astros.

"Gerrit showed up huge tonight and now we're headed back to the Bronx, where we like our chances," Holmes said. "We all believed we could win two games, and this is the first step."

There was no magic this time for the Guardians, who overcame a two-run deficit in the ninth inning on Saturday to win Game 3 in dramatic fashion.

Cleveland not only rallied against New York's bullpen on Saturday, but the Guardians became the first team in 168 games to overcome a multi-run deficit and beat the Yankees in the postseason.

The Guardians closed within 3-2 in the fourth on Naylor's second career postseason homer — and third homer in 17 at-bats — off Cole.

Naylor's laser shot into the seats fronting the outfield bullpens sent Cleveland's crowd into a frenzy that got wilder as the animated DH circled the bases swinging his arms back in forth as if he was rocking a baby.

Cole didn't find it amusing.

"Whatever," he said. "It's cute. I didn't see it in the moment, and it wouldn't have bothered me in the moment, and it just is kind of funny."

Bader's 429-foot shot into the left-field bleachers put the Yankees ahead 3-0 in the second, and not only gave them momentum but belief they would even the series following their gutting loss in Game 3.

New York's dugout erupted with shouts and fist pumps as Bader rounded first following his fifth hit in six career at-bats off Quantrill. He also homered in Game 1, when Cole and the Yankees beat Quantrill.

The Guardians got a run back in the third, but missed a chance for more when Ramírez got a little overaggressive on the base paths.

With runners at first and second, Ramírez dropped a bloop into left field that scored rookie Steven Kwan. Thinking he had a chance to take an extra base, Ramírez went about halfway to second before realizing he had no chance and got thrown out retreating to first.

Both managers are expected to empty their bullpens in the finale.

Boone said it's possible Peralta could pitch in his fifth straight game, and that Game 2 starter Nestor Cortes is also available.

Francona is confident Civale will pitch well, and after that, he's got Trevor Stephan, James Karinchak and closer Emmanuel Clase — his top three relievers — all rested and ready.

Cole saves his best for Cleveland in the postseason. He's 4-0 with a 1.98 ERA in four career starts against the Guardians. Bader's three homers in the series are his three longest this season. New York improved to 14-12 in the postseason against Cleveland. It was the 19th anniversary of Boone's walk-off homer to beat the Boston Red Sox in 2003.

Boone spent much of his pregame news conference attempting to clarify the communication breakdown between him and Holmes in Game 3.

After the bullpen melted down, Holmes, who was recently sidelined with a shoulder strain, told reporters he was available. Boone, though, said he never informed the right-hander he was down, creating confusion and awkwardness.

Boone said he decided not to pitch Holmes on consecutive days so as not to risk his health. Holmes reported soreness after pitching in Game 2.

"As a competitor, I want to be out there as much as possible, but I totally understand the plan," Holmes said.

Dodgers have much to contemplate during long winter

LOS ANGELES (AP)±—After all their gaudy statistics during the regular season — 111 wins, Freddie Freeman and Trea Turner powering the offense — the Los Angeles Dodgers appeared on their way to fulfilling manager Dave Roberts' spring prediction of another World Series victory.

Not so fast.

The San Diego Padres squelched those plans, upsetting the Dodgers in four games to win their NL Division Series and providing a stunning end to a historic season in Los Angeles.

"This was a really good team, a really, really good team," Freeman said. "October baseball can be brutal and it happened for us."

Two years removed from winning their World Series championship in the pandemic bubble, the Dodgers have much to contemplate and plenty of time to do it during the long offseason.

PITCHING

Walker Buehler is expected to miss most and possibly all of the 2023 season after undergoing his second career Tommy John surgery in August.

Starters Clayton Kershaw, Tyler Anderson and Andrew Heaney will become free agents after the World Series ends.

Kershaw, the three-time Cy Young Award winner who turns 35 in March, has indicated he'd like to return to the only team he's ever played for during his 15-year career. He was on a $17 million, one-year deal this season.

Anderson, the All-Star left-hander, had a breakout season in his first year with the Dodgers. The well-traveled veteran had a 2.57 ERA in 178 2/3 innings.

Signed for $8.5 million before the lockout began, Heaney started the season on an encouraging note but then missed two stretches because of shoulder strains. Making his postseason debut, the left-hander gave up a home run to Trent Grisham in a 2-1 loss to the Padres in Game 3.

Dustin May and Blake Treinen returned from health issues in time to make the division series roster and should be ready for spring training.

The Dodgers figure to part ways with closer Craig Kimbrel, who was demoted from his ninth-inning role with two weeks left in the regular season and got left off the postseason roster.

TREA TURNER

Turner becomes a free agent after the World Series ends and would be a sought-after player among what appears to be a strong shortstop class.

He made his second straight All-Star appearance in his first full season with the Dodgers.

After splitting time between Washington and LA last year, Turner hit .298 and finished second in hits behind teammate Freeman with 194. Turner tied for second in at-bats and plate appearances, and tied for third in singles among MLB leaders. He sprained his right ring finger in the eighth inning of Game 3 against the Padres but started in Game 4.

OUT THE DOOR?

David Price has indicated he plans to retire. The 37-year-old left-hander was left off the division series roster after a wrist injury curtailed him in September. Price, who won the World Series with Boston in 2018, opted out of the 2020 season because of the coronavirus pandemic and was used mostly as a reliever over the last two seasons.

OLD GUARD

The Dodgers hold a $16 million team option for 2023 on third baseman Justin Turner, who hit .278 while splitting starts as the designated hitter. He was just 2 for 13 in the NLDS. The 37-year-old is a fan favorite and a well-respected voice in the clubhouse. But the future already is here. Miguel Vargas made the NLDS roster at age 22, impressing Roberts with his ability to hit to all fields and overall cool-headedness. The Dodgers could choose to pay Turner's $2 million buyout and move on with Vargas at third.

Cody Bellinger will enter his final year of arbitration eligibility with his future seemingly in doubt. Three years removed from being the NL MVP, the outfielder was benched for the last two games of the division series. He hit .193 with a .611 OPS over the past two seasons and the Dodgers may not want to shell out more money for a player whose excellent defense doesn't make up for his poor hitting.

Allen leads late go-ahead drive, Bills finally win at KC

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Josh Allen threw for 329 yards and three touchdowns, including the go-ahead toss to Dawson Knox with 1:04 remaining, and the Buffalo Bills beat the Kansas City Chiefs 24-20 on Sunday to exact a small measure of revenge for their epic overtime loss in last year's playoffs.

Stefon Diggs had 10 catches for 148 yards and a touchdown, and Gabe Davis also had a TD catch after torching Kansas City for four of them in January, as the Bills (5-1) finally walked out of Arrowhead Stadium a winner.

Patrick Mahomes had one last chance to rally the Chiefs (4-2) in the final minute. But after an incomplete pass, Buffalo cornerback Taron Johnson jumped Mahomes' pass to Skyy Moore, picking him off with 51 seconds left.

Mahomes finished with 338 yards passing to go with two touchdowns and two interceptions, including one in the end zone early in the game. JuJu Smith-Schuster had five catches for 113 yards and a touchdown.

Harrison Butker kicked two field goals for Kansas City, including a 62-yarder on the last play of the first half and a 44-yarder that put the Chiefs ahead 20-17 with 9:49 to play. But the Chiefs went three-and-out on their next possession, setting up the Bills' decisive drive.

AP

Buffalo Bills quarterback Josh Allen celebrates after an NFL football game against the Kansas City Chiefs Sunday, Oct. 16, 2022, in Kansas City, Mo. Buffalo won 24-20.

Eagles 26, Cowboys 17

In Philadelphia, Jalen Hurts threw for 155 yards and two touchdowns as Philadelphia beat NFC East rival Dallas to stay undefeated.

C.J. Gardner-Johnson had two of the Eagles' three interceptions of Cowboys quarterback Cooper Rush, the backup who had won his first four starts in place of the injured Dak Prescott.

The Eagles held on after their 20-0 lead shrank to 20-17 early in the fourth quarter, improving to 6-0 for the first time since 2004 — when they won their first seven games and went to the Super Bowl.

Philly put the game away with an efficient drive that took up more than half the fourth quarter. The Eagles converted three third downs and Hurts hit DeVonta Smith for a 7-yard touchdown.

Giants 24, Ravens 20

In East Rutherford, N.J., Julian Love's interception and 27-yard return set up Saquon Barkley's 1-yard touchdown dive with 1:43 to play, and New York rallied from a 10-point fourth-quarter deficit to beat Baltimore.

The Giants' defense, led by former Ravens coordinator Wink Martindale, forced two turnovers by Lamar Jackson late in the fourth quarter. After Barkley's go-ahead score, rookie Keyvon Thibodeaux sacked Jackson and forced a fumble as the Ravens (3-3) had their third late meltdown this season and handed the Giants (5-1) another surprising victory.

Led by new coach Brian Daboll, the Giants have already exceeded their 2021 win total.

Daniel Jones threw touchdown passes to two rookies: 5 yards to Wan'Dale Robinson and 8 yards to Daniel Bellinger. The second got New York within 20-17 with 6:53 to go.

Kenyan Drake ran for 119 yards, including a 30-yard TD, and Jackson hit Mark Andrews on a 12-yard TD pass early in the fourth quarter for a 20-10 lead.

Steelers 20, Buccaneers 18

In Pittsburgh, Mitch Trubisky came on for an injured Kenny Pickett to throw a 6-yard touchdown pass in the fourth quarter and Pittsburgh's defense made it stand up against Tom Brady and Tampa Bay.

The Steelers (2-4) snapped a four-game losing streak by relying on a defense missing almost its entire starting secondary.

Brady struggled to take advantage behind an offensive line that had issues protecting him. The 45-year-old completed 25 of 40 passes for 243 yards for the Buccaneers (3-3). Brady's 11-yard touchdown pass to Leonard Fournette with 4:38 remaining cut Pittsburgh's lead to two.

Steelers linebacker Devin Bush broke up the 2-point conversion attempt and Pittsburgh ran out the clock behind Trubisky to avoid its first 1-5 start since 1988.

Trubisky, benched in favor of Pickett at halftime of an Oct. 2 loss to the New York Jets, passed for 144 yards and the touchdown to Chase Claypool, the first scoring grab by a

Jets 27, Packers 10

In Green Bay, Wis., Breece Hall ran for 116 yards, including a 34-yard touchdown, and New York sacked Aaron Rodgers four times to win its fourth straight.

The Jets (4-2) are off to their best six-game start since 2015, when they also were 4-2 before finishing 10-6. New York hasn't reached the playoffs since the 2010 season, the NFL's longest active drought.

Green Bay (3-3) lost consecutive regular-season games within the same season for the first time since coach Matt LaFleur's arrival in 2019.

The Jets outrushed Green Bay 179-60 while Zach Wilson was just 10 of 18 for 110 yards. New York broke a 3-all tie and pulled ahead for good by scoring two touchdowns in a span of less than 2 1/2 minutes in the third quarter.

Colts 34, Jaguars 27

In Indianapolis, Matt Ryan threw a 32-yard touchdown pass to Alec Pierce with 17 seconds to play Sunday as Indianapolis beat Jacksonville.

Ryan finished with a franchise-record 42 completions on 58 attempts with three touchdowns and 389 yards — passing Dan Marino for seventh on the NFL's career list for yards passing — as he led the Colts (3-2-1) to their third come-from-behind victory this year.

The Jaguars (2-4) lost their fifth straight at Indianapolis. Trevor Lawrence was 20 of 22 with 163 yards and one score while running for two TDs for the Jaguars.

The Colts snapped a touchdown drought that stretched from the third quarter of Week 4 until just before halftime Sunday when Ryan found Parris Campbell on a 4-yard TD pass to cut the deficit to 14-10.

Patriots 38, Browns 15

In Cleveland, rookie backup Bailey Zappe threw for 309 yards and two touchdowns in his third NFL game, and Bill Belichick tied George Halas for second on the all-time list with his 324th victory as New England buried Cleveland.

Zappe, starting his second game in place of the injured Mac Jones, threw second-half TD passes to Tyquan Thornton and Hunter Henry as the Patriots (3-3) pulled away from the anemic Browns. Rhamondre Stevenson rushed for two touchdowns for New England.

Zappe finished 24 of 34 passing a week after he threw for 188 yards and a touchdown in his first start.

Belichick, who is 324-159 including the playoffs, has a chance to pass Halas next Monday night at home against Chicago — the franchise with which Halas won all his games.

Rams 24, Panthers 10

In Inglewood, Calif., Matthew Stafford passed for 253 yards, Darrell Henderson and receiver Ben Skowronek rushed for touchdowns in the second half, and Los Angeles beat Carolina to end a two-game skid.

Allen Robinson caught a TD pass for the defending Super Bowl champion Rams (3-3), who spoiled Steve Wilks' debut as the Panthers' interim head coach.

Wilks took over when Matt Rhule was fired last Monday. He apparently sent receiver Robbie Anderson to the locker room shortly before the end of the third quarter after a shouting match with receivers coach Joe Dailey.

Donte Jackson returned an interception 30 yards for a touchdown for the Panthers (1-5), who have lost three straight. Christian McCaffrey racked up 158 total yards, but P.J. Walker passed for just 60 yards while making his third career start in the injury absences of Baker Mayfield, Sam Darnold and Matt Corral.

Vikins 24, Dolphins 16

In Miami Gardens, Fla., Dalvin Cook rushed for a 53-yard insurance touchdown in the fourth quarter and Minnesota held on to beat injury-riddled Miami.

The Dolphins (3-3) had rallied behind Teddy Bridgewater, who returned from the concussion protocol and entered the game when third-stringer Skylar Thompson injured his thumb in the second quarter.

Cook's score with 3:25 left restored a two-touchdown lead for the Vikings (5-1). It followed a fumble by Dolphins receiver Jaylen Waddle on a drive when Miami was swiftly moving the ball down the field, trailing 16-10.

NFL receiving leader Justin Jefferson had a 47-yard catch-and-run at the end of the third quarter — part of a six-catch, 107-yard performance. That set up a 2-yard touchdown catch by Adam Thielen to put the Vikings ahead 16-3.

The Dolphins' defense put together one of its best performances in a while — three sacks, seven quarterback hurries, four tackles for loss — but didn't get enough help from an offense that could not turn drives into points.

Bengals 30, Saints 26

In New Orleans, Joe Burrow passed for three touchdowns and scrambled 19 yards for a score as Cincinnati rallied past New Orleans.

Two of Burrow's touchdown tosses went to Ja'Marr Chase — just like the previous time the pair played in college in the Superdome in a national championship game triumph with LSU.

The second came on a quick pass to the left sideline that Chase turned into a 60-yard, go-ahead score with 1:57 left. The star receiver spun away from cornerback Bradley Roby before outrunning safety Tyrann Mathieu.

Chase capped a rally in the final four minutes for Cincinnati (3-3), starting with Evan McPherson's 52-yard field goal that trimmed New Orleans' lead to 26-24.

The Saints (2-4) failed to get a first down on their next series, and Blake Gillikin's shanked punt fluttered out of bounds at the Cincinnati 40. One play later, Chase was racing away from the Saints' secondary.

Falcons 28, 49ers 14

In Atlanta, Marcus Mariota threw a pair of touchdown passes and ran for another score against the NFL's top-ranked defense, leading Atlanta past San Francisco.

Mariota completed his first 13 passes for the Falcons (3-3), finally throwing his lone incompletion on his final attempt of the day with less than 11 minutes remaining. He finished with 129 yards through the air in Atlanta's conservative passing game, also rushing for 50 yards on six carries.

The Niners (3-3) couldn't overcome two interceptions by Jimmy Garoppolo and a fumble by Jeff Wilson that resulted in an Atlanta touchdown.

Kyle Pitts caught his first TD pass of the season and just the second of his 22-game career, hauling in a 7-yard throw from Mariota. Veteran tight end MyCole Pruitt collected the other scoring pass from Mariota, a 2-yarder to cap an 11-play, 74-yard drive on Atlanta's opening possession.

Mariota bootlegged it in from the 3 in the final minute of the first half to the put the Falcons ahead to stay, 21-14.

Seahawks 19, Cardinals 9

In Seattle, rookie Kenneth Walker III rushed for an 11-yard touchdown early in the fourth quarter and Seattle beat Arizona.

The Seahawks (3-3) jumped into a share of the lead in the NFC West with San Francisco, which lost earlier Sunday at Atlanta.

Walker, a second-round pick out of Michigan State, took over as Seattle's feature back because of Rashaad Penny's season-ending broken leg. He had a season-most 21 carries for 97 yards.

Geno Smith completed 20 of 31 passes for 197 yards for Seattle. He also ran for 48 yards on six carries. Jason Myers kicked four field goals for the Seahawks.

Dikembe Mutombo undergoing treatment for brain tumor

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Basketball Hall of Famer Dikembe Mutombo is undergoing treatment in Atlanta for a brain tumor, the NBA announced Saturday.

Mutombo has been one of the NBA's global ambassadors for years, and recently appeared at Hall of Fame enshrinement events in Springfield, Massachusetts and a pair of preseason games in Saitama, Japan.

He also appeared with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken at an event in the Congo, Mutombo's native country, in August.

"He is receiving the best care possible from a collaborative team of specialists in Atlanta and is in great spirits as he begins treatment," Mutombo's family said in a statement distributed by the NBA. "Dikembe and his family ask for privacy during this time so they can focus on his care. They are grateful for your prayers and good wishes."

The family did not release any other details, including what prompted the tumor being discovered.

AP

Former NBA basketball player Dikembe Mutombo laughs during a news conference announcing him as one of the 12 finalists of this year's hall of fame class during an event ahead of the NBA All Star basketball game, on Feb. 14, 2015, in New York.

"We know he will approach this challenge with the same determination and grit that have made him a legend on and off the court," Atlanta Hawks principal owner Tony Ressler said.

The 56-year-old Mutombo spent 18 seasons in the NBA, playing for Denver, Atlanta, Houston, Philadelphia, New York and the then-New Jersey Nets. The 7-foot-2 center out of Georgetown was an eight-time All-Star, four-time defensive player of the year, three-time All-NBA selection and went into the Hall of Fame in 2015 after averaging 9.8 points and 10.3 rebounds per game for his career.

Mutombo last played during the 2008-09 season and has worked extensively for charitable and humanitarian causes since. Blinken lauded him when the pair were together in the Congo, telling Mutombo "you've done so much to bring the world together."

Mutombo speaks nine languages and founded the Dikembe Mutombo Foundation in 1997, concentrating on improving health, education and quality of life for the people in the Congo. His foundation led the building of a 170-bed hospital in Kinshasa, the capital city, and that facility has treated nearly a half-million people regardless of their ability to pay for care.

He also has served on the boards of many organizations, including Special Olympics International, the CDC Foundation and the National Board for the U.S. Fund for UNICEF.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	5	1	0	.833	176	81
N.Y. Jets	4	2	0	.667	143	128
Miami	3	3	0	.500	131	155
New England	3	3	0	.500	141	113
South						
Tennessee	3	2	0	.600	96	118
Indianapolis	3	2	1	.583	103	121
Jacksonville	2	4	0	.333	138	114
Houston	1	3	1	.300	86	99
North						
Baltimore	3	3	0	.500	158	141
Cincinnati	3	3	0	.500	138	115
Cleveland	2	4	0	.333	148	163
Pittsburgh	2	4	0	.333	97	146
West						
Kansas City	4	2	0	.667	179	149
L.A. Chargers	3	2	0	.600	122	136
Denver	2	3	0	.400	75	80
Las Vegas	1	4	0	.200	125	130

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	6	0	0	1.000	161	105
N.Y. Giants	5	1	0	.833	127	113
Dallas	4	2	0	.667	110	98
Washington	2	4	0	.333	102	135
South						
Atlanta	3	3	0	.500	146	136
Tampa Bay	3	3	0	.500	121	103
New Orleans	2	4	0	.333	141	158
Carolina	1	5	0	.167	103	146
North						
Minnesota	5	1	0	.833	139	118
Green Bay	3	3	0	.500	107	123
Chicago	2	4	0	.333	93	118
Detroit	1	4	0	.200	140	170
West						
L.A. Rams	3	3	0	.500	104	126
San Francisco	3	3	0	.500	122	89
Seattle	3	3	0	.500	146	163
Arizona	2	4	0	.333	114	142

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FMS

From Page 20

Dandan, which prevailed over Hopwood-1 in the playoff opener last Thursday, 21-18, saw action in one of those win-or-go-home games after bowing to Tanapag in the second round, 9-13. Dandan had to beat Tinian Junior High School last Friday, 16-13, and then dethroned GCA last Saturday, 15-11, to keep its finals hopes alive. The Tottot then took a one-hour rest before challenging the favored Tanapag for the second and last finals ticket.

Dandan went on to pull off an upset over the Tataga, 16-4, to join FMS in the finals. Tataga faltered on its second attempt to reach the finals after being held to two field goals in the loser's bracket semis game over Dandan. Shaenna Yamada top-scored for Dandan in their semis win after making 12 points.

After two back-to-back make-or-break matches, Dandan played its third straight game of the day and faced a daunting task in the finals as the team collided with the unbeaten FMS, which holds a twice-to-beat advantage in the title game. The Napu Riders went on to finish off Dandan in Game 1 of the finals behind Saralu to complete their undefeated season.

FMS swept its eight games in the regular season and breezed past its first three opponents in the playoff round before taking on Dandan. Despite recording a streak, FMS coach Dexter Tenorio reminded his players not to be too complacent in the finals and follow their game plan—which is to prevent Dandan players from scoring off fastbreaks and box out on the rebound play against their much taller foes.

"We don't have problems on offense because we have Rosie so the focus really is to help each other out on defense," said Tenorio, who had his coaching debut with the Napu Riders.

"I would like to thank the FMS management, staff, and the teachers and our players' family members for supporting our team and for trusting me to coach their students/children," Tenorio added. "We will continue the program for the next season and will encourage the students to practice more because we will be losing some key players and we will need big adjustments as we try to defend our title next year."

FMS 28 – Saralu 23, Nishimura 5.

Dandan 15 – Ramon 8, Yamada 4, Laniyo 2, Stole 1.

Scoring by quarters: 11-4, 15-8, 24-14, 28-15.

KANOA

From Page 20

just eight minutes later for his second goal of the game, with Kanoa now up, 3-0.

Tahir Shakir added one more goal for Kanoa before Branson Santos Jr. from Shirley's bagged their first goal, for a game of 4-1. One more goal was added by N.J, Pino of Shirley's but it wasn't enough as Kanoa wasn't done attacking Shirley's goalie, with Gil Rooney scoring two goals and Akoni Matsumoto scoring one for the final score of 7-2.

U16 GIRLS
Kanoa FC 11, Shirley's FC 1

In the U16 girls match, Kanoa also defeated Shirley's, 11-1.

Shirley's barely made a dent on Kanoa's defenses as their only goal came in the last minutes of the second half, made by Alyssa Borlongan.

Meanwhile, Kanoa had already scored four goals in the first half, with seven shots coming in rapid fire succession in the second half.

Audrey Castro of Kanoa completed the hat-trick of three goals—two in the first half and one in the second half. Deseha Mendiola and Beatrice Gross almost completed hat-trick themselves with two goals each.

U16 BOYS
Kanoa FC 3, Matansa FC 0

The last game of the day and the last for Kanoa saw their U16 boys shut down Matansa, 3-0.

The first half came and went quietly as both teams couldn't penetrate each other's defenses, but Kanoa's Christian Negara, Akoni Matsumoto, R.J. Manabat scored three successive goals which was enough to secure the win, 3-0, with Matansa unable to retaliate.

GECKOS

From Page 20

The SIS high school girls dominated and claimed their third cross country championships with 14 points, with ACS right at their heels with 25 points. Saipan Southern High School scooted into third place with 73 points.

In the overall individual results, two SIS girls made the Top 2, with Kaithlyn Chavez bagging the gold medal with a time of 22:12. Chavez's teammate, Tiana Cabrera, came in right behind her for silver with a time of 23:54, and Eunice Xu from ACS won the bronze with a time of 24:10.

In the U12 girls individual results, Erika Long from OES won gold with a time of 14:53, Hiyori Okuma from Saipan Community School won silver with a time of 15:22, and Stella Choi from Mount Carmel School won bronze with a time of 15:30.

Kathy Ruszala, cross country coach for the Geckos, said after the race that "it's safe to say that they love running in the mud and the rain. They constantly remind me that the sport, especially at their age, is about having a good time with their friends. Don't get me wrong, their competitive streak comes out during the race but before and after, it's all about being there and sharing the moment with their peers."

When asked how this cross country season went with the Geckos, she said "it was [a] bit different because I transitioned back to [the Public School System] as their speech pathologist so not being at SIS made organizing and practices trickier, but we made it work. The courses this year were different every week and that made it exciting for the kids. As always, I am grateful to the organizers for all the work they put in, the late nights and early morning setup. So happy to be a part of the run community. They do it for the love of the sport and the children!"

Additionally, SIS headmaster Dr. Ron Snyder told *Saipan Tribune* that "this year's cross country season was an enormous success. This year we had four different courses from four different agencies hosting the qualifying meets. This added diversity to the season and allowed us to see different parts of the island. We were very lucky to have Kagman High School host their first invitational as well as SIS, [Northern Marianas Athletics], and Run Saipan. The development of all the athletes was amazing!"

When asked how the championships went, he said "the championship meet was pure cross country! We started in the early morning light, with a soggy, muddy, slippery course that challenged our athletes. Strong legs, good core balance, and strategic thinking were all important in the high school race. During the Middle School race, the rain started and by the time the elementary students ran, there was a foot deep body of water the young runners had to slog through. They loved it, I loved it and was very impressed with the perseverance that our runners showed. This is what cross country is all about!"

"I am very proud of the SIS Geckos. We split the trophies evenly with very powerful Agape teams and there were some tight races. The SIS high school girls and the Agape high school boys were the teams to beat but both were pushed by up and coming runners throughout the division. The middle school race was amazingly close for the girls, with our team just 3 points behind the Agape girls and the elementary teams from SIS were blazingly fast. I loved seeing them push through the mud at the end, water splashing up almost as high as they are while sprinting to the finish," he said.

"Overall, I couldn't be happier. Our rival Agape took three trophies and we took three but I sense a lot of competition coming up in the 2023 season." Finally, he said, "I'd like to thank NMA, PSS athletics, Run Saipan, Saipan Vegas Country Club, and all of our volunteers who helped marshal this beautiful but wet course. This was such a joy to be part of."

Northern Marianas Athletics coordinated the event along with the Public School System Athletic Program.

Cole, Yankees save season, beat Guards to force ALDS Game 5

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Dikembe Mutombo undergoing treatment for brain tumor

PAGE 19

FMS rules MS girls of IT&E league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Francisco M. Sablan Middle School capped its perfect run in the girls division of the IT&E Interscholastic Basketball League 2022-2023 season by dominating Dandan Middle School in their finals match, 28-15, last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The victory over Dandan allowed the Napu Riders to finally capture the division title that eluded them last season when they lost to Grace Christian Academy. It was also a fitting farewell to Rosie Saralu, who made the most of her last season with FMS after leading the team's championship win.

Saralu scored 23 of FMS' totals points, taking charge of the squad's offense right from the get-go. She had all but one of the five field goals of the Napu Riders to hand the team an 11-4 advantage after the first period. FMS was never threatened after that with Saralu's better basketball skills helping her outplayed Dandan players on offense.

Before battling Dandan, the Napu Riders first played in the semifinal round of the winner's bracket on the same day, dueling No. 2 seed Tanapag Middle School. FMS eventually recorded a 24-16 victory to take the first finals seat, while Tanapag dropped to the loser's bracket and waited for the results of a couple of knockout matches to get another chance for a finals stint.

See FMS on Page 19

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Francisco M. Sablan Middle School's Rosie Saralu takes off for a shot during their title game against Dandan Middle School in the girls division of the IT&E Interscholastic Basketball League 2022-2023 season last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Geckos dominate elementary cross country

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

Saipan International School's Baby Geckos claimed both elementary school divisions, while its high school girls topped their age group in the 2022-2023 NMA-PSS All Schools Cross Country Championship last Saturday at the Saipan Vegas Country Club.

» SIS also tops girls HS

The Baby Geckos zoomed through their first championship after the elementary boys team bucked the rainy and muddy conditions to earn 25 points. Agape Christian School settled for second place with 44 points, while Brilliant Star School came in third with 46 points.

In the U9 individual boys results, two SIS boys made the Top 3 with Gabriel Walsh winning the gold medal with a time of 12:19, Evan Poole from BSS took the silver with a time of 12:51, while Jake Duenas settled for the bronze with a time of 13:08.

In the U12 boys individual results, Quido Jambor from SIS was golden with a time of 11:15, ACS' Reyviel Escarion won silver with a time of 11:39, and Kanoa Owens from Garapan Elementary School came in third with a time of 11:53.

The SIS elementary girls won the championship with plenty to spare after earning 16 points for SIS' second gold of the morning, followed by Oleai Elementary School with 44 points, and BSS in third place with 69 points.

In the U9 girls individual standings, Lovell Spaeth from BSS clocked in for gold at 11:40, and two SIS girls made the Top 3 with Scarlett Burrell coming in at 11:41 for silver, and Leilani Ruszala making the cut for bronze at an even time of 12:12.

See GECKOS on Page 19

LEIGH GASES
The Saipan International School elementary cross country team poses for a photo after winning first place in both elementary school divisions last Saturday in the 2022-2023 All Schools Cross Country Championship at the Saipan Vegas Country Club.

LEIGH GASES
The Saipan International School high school girls cross country team poses for a photo after winning first place last Saturday in the 2022-2023 All Schools Cross Country Championship at the Saipan Vegas Country Club.

Kanoa FC sweeps opposition in 3 age groups

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

Kanoa Football Club U13 boys, U16 girls, and U16 boys lead their respective divisions after winning each of their games in the TakeCare Youth Soccer League Fall 2022 last Oct. 8 at the Northern Mariana Islands Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The hat-trick of sorts came after Kanoa FC's U13 boys team beat Shirley's FC, 7-2, to improve its win-loss record to 2-0.

Kanoa FC's U16 girls made it 2-2 for the day after they routed Shirley's FC, 11-1, to go above .500 in the standings at 2-1.

The third Kanoa FC game saw its U16 boys remain unbeaten at 3-0 after blanking Matansa FC, 3-0,

U13 BOYS
Kanoa FC 7, Shirley's FC 2

The younger Kanoa boys dominated the field and made light work of the ball as they rumbled through the first half with four goals, the first of which was made just two minutes into the game by Maximus Taitano.

He was followed by teammate Jayson Tagabuel in the 10th minute to put Kanoa up 2-0. Taitano soon found the back of the net once again

See KANOA on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Kanoa FC U13 boys team is seen in their match against Shirley's FC, which they won 7-2 last Oct. 8 at the NMI Soccer Training Center.